

The Playground

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PLAY DAYS MAKE SMILING FACES—TAKEN AT WESTCHESTER COUNTY (NEW YORK) PLAY DAY

The Playground

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The World at Play

Making Night School Attractive.—The Continuation School of Port Chester, New York, which holds an assembly every Friday night, recently called upon the Recreation Commission to help arouse a greater enthusiasm in the school on the part of the students, most of whom are piece workers in factories.

The following plan was worked out: At the close of the assembly each section teacher—there are eleven sections, five of boys, six of girls—sends a representative from her room to the recreation director for whom a room has been set aside. Together the representatives and the director work out a special entertainment feature for the next assembly.

"Thus far," writes Miss Rieman, Recreation Director of the Commission, "we have presented six program numbers of varied types—*King and Queen of Kalamazoo*; *Outer Toonerville Grand Band* in costume; a Game Frolic; Animated Movies, Magic and Music and a Carol Procession with Nativity Pantomime. Sixty-two of the two hundred eighteen enrolled in the school have taken part. With few exceptions these are Italians, largely of non-English speaking parents. It is interesting to note the change in attitude on the part of the actors. Formerly reluctant to take part, terribly conscious of what the others might think of them and almost impossible to costume, now they are eager for their turn to come around."

Recreation for Shut-Ins.—The Recreation and Playground Association of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, has interested the Business and Professional Women's Clubs in the purchase of a Devry portable moving picture machine which is being used to give the shut-ins in institutions a program of moving pictures or music twice a month. The films used are secured largely from the non-theatrical field. A program is made up of one comedy and three reels of industrial, educational and scenic pictures.

The institutions served are the two hospitals, two Old Ladies' Homes, the Home for Friendless Children and the county jail. In one of the Old Ladies' Homes there was found that eight of the inmates between 80 and 90 years of age had never before seen moving pictures.

Welcoming Strangers.—The community house at Palo Alto, California, has a hospitality committee which arranges for the welcoming of new arrivals, the entertainment of strangers, and the planning of social affairs. An effort is being made to have someone representing the community come in touch with every stranger. An activity of this kind should go far to create the community spirit which spells neighborliness.

Utilizing Waste Space.—Lynn, Massachusetts, has a large railroad bridge. This means that there is space available under the arches. The Chamber of Commerce and Retail Merchants of the city took advantage of this space at Christmas time and a delightful playhouse for children was the result.

The space under one of the arches of the bridge was closed off with canvas and over the bright green arched doors at either end there were signs "Santa's Wonder Home." The interior was most effectively decorated. Long jagged icicles of beaver board from the ceiling and frosted walls made the place look like an ice palace in fairyland. All along the tunnel walls were gaily painted cutouts from beaver board of favorite story book characters—The Old Woman in the Shoe, Jack and the Beanstalk, Humpty Dumpty, Cinderella, the Pied Piper and a score of others. These were set up about six inches from the floor and out about a foot from the wall so that the children could actually touch their beloved friends as they shuffled along in the sawdust snow.

In an alcove corner behind a long counter sat a cordial Santa Claus who wrote all the "Wishes" in a great red book and delighted his

little friends with stories when he was not too busy. Two brownies were very busy making toys at a work-bench and when Santa was besieged with requests, they helped him. Two very real looking reindeers peered out of their stalls, and the sleigh with a huge buffalo robe with a harness nearby looked quite ready for action at a moment's notice.

It may be that your community has space of this kind which could be effectively utilized. It might serve in the summer as a workshop for industrial activities and constructive play, or a play center.

Recreation for Itinerant Workers.—Recreation for migratory workers is one of the problems with which many recreation groups on the western coast are confronted. During Christmas week, for the first time in the history of Seattle, an effort was made to offer the hospitality of the city to the men who were temporarily in Seattle. Community Service was asked to provide recreation and ten entertainments were arranged. Appeals to various dramatic and musical clubs received a hearty response. The talent secured for the entertainments was the best available in music, drama, stereopticon lectures, and in wrestling and tumbling. Entertainments were given daily, the programs beginning on Monday before Christmas and continuing through New Year's Day.

There was no suggestion of disorder during the entertainments. The finest testimonial of the success of the programs came from the policeman on the beat who said, "The arrests in the district were 50 per cent fewer than in past years and we attribute it to the form of hospitality provided the men."

State Armories as Recreation Centers.—In three of the cities of Michigan, the state armories are being used as centers for the Community Recreation. In Owosso the city raised a large part of the cost of the Armory to provide for a swimming pool, gymnasium facilities, a stage and smaller rooms for lunches or group meetings. The Recreation Organization receives a small annual state appropriation, and is responsible for the entire care and upkeep of the building.

At Bay City and Monroe, Community Service hires the Armory at a fixed monthly amount, which is made as reasonable as the local mili-

tary authority can allow and still meet their overhead expenses. At Bay City community dances are conducted there twice a week. A grammar school basket ball league plays its games there as well as a business men's league. The Community Service office is also here.

At Monroe the Armory is being used for playground ball, fun nights and dramatics.

Really a Dividend.—The Franklin Cooperative Creamery Association of Minneapolis has decided to discontinue paying a dividend to its members, and to use the earnings for the purchase of a farm to be used immediately for recreation, but ultimately as the site for a college.

Realtors Help.—From the annual report, dated October 1st, 1923, of the Glendale, California, Community Service and Recreation Commission:

"Barnum-Walters Co., one of the big real estate sub-division companies sees the value of community activities in home building and has made a really substantial contribution to Glendale, in the form of a beautiful community house which is located in the heart of their new sub-division at Sparr Heights."

A Memorial Playground.—One of the many gifts of the late Manton B. Metcalf to the City of Orange, New Jersey, is a piece of property in a congested district of the city, adjoining a playground established by the City Commissioner two years ago. The ground has a frontage of 640 feet with a depth of 365 feet. It will be developed as a park and playground with all necessary equipment and landscaping features. To carry out Mr. Metcalf's wishes regarding the playground, an association composed of members of the Metcalf family has been organized, which will be known as the Manton B. Metcalf Memorial Association.

Making Boys' Dreams Come True.—What boy has not wanted to ride on a fire engine? General Smedley D. Butler, the newly appointed Director of Public Service in Philadelphia, is going to make this dream come true for the boys of this city. According to the January 4 issue of the *New York Tribune*, General Butler has announced that during Boys' Week, every boy who wants to may ride on a fire engine.

"All my life I had a desire to ride on a fire

engine," the general said. "I never realized that ambition, but I am going to. On a certain day during the week I am going to call off all fires and get out every piece of apparatus and give the boys a ride—and I will ride with them.

"And I will shoot marbles with any boy who fires a challenge at me, too."

From \$5,000 to \$20,000.—Last year Pasadena, California, reported an expenditure of \$4,000 for its recreation. This year the city has appropriated \$10,000 and the Board of Education an equal amount. How many cities can report an increase of 500 per cent in their appropriation?

Basket Ball Leagues Flourish in Shreveport.—Shreveport, Louisiana, is exceedingly proud of its municipal basket ball league, organized and sponsored by Community Service. There are fifteen teams of men and four teams of women with others applying for admission. The teams play from three to four games each night in the Coliseum, the use of which has been given the Department of Recreation. The Coliseum, which represents a large investment, has previously been unused during the winter months. This year there is something going on every night. Volley ball has also become very popular.

Dates have been set aside in the schedule for the playing of all match games and also intercollegiate games between Centenary College and other institutions.

A Flourishing Toy Club.—Mr. A. N. Morris, Superintendent of Recreation, Sioux City, Iowa, organized a Christmas Toy Club which has been a great success and which has met with the enthusiastic support of the school principals. On December 28 it was found that 844 toys had been made—among them the following: Necktie racks, coat hangers, games, doll beds, revolving clowns, mounted animals on wheels and cigar box toys of various kinds.

Volley Ball Wins Popularity.—No single activity in the broad program promoted by the Community Service and Recreation Association of Monroe, Michigan, is more keenly enjoyed than volley ball. It is proving particularly popular with the girls and women of the community. A volley ball league for women and girls consisting of twelve teams with nine members each is functioning every week, three

sets of games being played twice a week in the High School gymnasium. The League has its social side. A banquet arranged by the members of the League was held on December 20 with an attendance of 95 people—members of the teams, their sponsors and heads of the industrial companies which the teams represent. The banner was awarded to the champions and plans were outlined for the second schedule.

Square Dances Still Popular.—Business men of Fort Worth, Texas, are financing a monthly Square Dance held under the auspices of the Recreation Board. They are proving very popular.

A Junior Baseball Tournament.—A baseball tournament for boys under thirteen years of age was a very popular feature of the summer playground program in Cincinnati. The purpose was to determine the best boys' baseball team in Greater Cincinnati. All boys desiring to enter the tournament were permitted to form teams of not more than fifteen men. Schedule of games was published in the evening newspapers. Medals were awarded the individuals of the winning team.

Eight Basket Ball Courts in Action.—The Bureau of Recreation of the Department of Parks and Public Buildings of Buffalo is conducting in the city auditorium a most successful Basket Ball League. Eight courts have been laid out and sixteen teams compete at one time. The attendance at the games this year has been exceptionally large, surpassing that of any previous season.

Basket Ball for Girls.—At a meeting of Physical Directors in Southern States held under the auspices of the Tennessee Physical Education Society at the Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee, it was recommended that competent women be put in charge of women and girls in coaching and officiating, and that all high schools in their basket ball games have girls adopt the rules outlined by the Committee on Athletics for Women and Girls of the American Physical Education Association in No. 115 R. Spalding's Athletic Library.

A Significant Work for Women and Girls.—The Katrina Trask Alliance, Incorporated,

of Saratoga Springs, New York, though only a little over a year old, is providing splendid opportunity for service and for the expression of the recreational and social interests of the girls and women of the community.

The house in which the activities center was given by George Foster Peabody in memory of his wife, Katrina Trask. Located on property running along one side of the city park, it makes an ideal center for recreational activities.

The outstanding feature of the organization, as described by Marjorie Knappen Waite, the Executive Secretary, is that there are no restrictions as to membership, and no qualifications are necessary, except interest in the activities. In the membership of some of the classes there are business women, professional women, women of leisure and domestics. There are classes in practical handiwork, such as dressmaking and millinery, china painting, basketry, and dancing. The organization has been the promoter of activities of general civic interest. For the benefit of Saratogans in general and of the merchants in particular, the Alliance had a fashion show last spring. It proved so popular and was so well attended that the merchants were encouraged to undertake an exhibition on a larger scale this fall.

The house is financed by members varying from \$5.00 to \$100 per annum. The privileges are all identical, so that the person paying \$5.00 has the same advantages, so far as the house is concerned, as the person paying \$100.

Stockton's Municipal Baths.—Last year the City of Stockton purchased the Stockton Mineral Baths, thereby securing one of the largest pools in the country. There are sufficient grounds around the baths for a combination park and playground. When completely developed, the baths will be one of the most popular recreation centers of the community.

Recreation in Traverse City.—Traverse City, Michigan, through its Community Recreation Association, has inaugurated a community-wide recreation program. Some excellent facilities, such as an athletic field, have been provided in connection with the new High School building. A golf course, tennis courts, a camp site for tourists, woods, lakes, a water front and other natural play spaces will give Traverse City an unusual opportunity for a broad program.

The Chamber of Commerce, local churches, lodges and other organizations are combining to make possible the work.

What One Small Community Is Doing.—Marysville, California, has a population of less than 6,000 people but it has a far-reaching program. A recreation commission of five members and a recreation association which will, if plans succeed, eventually have 1,500 members, are responsible for the development of the program. There is a recreation director whose salary is paid by the city and the School Board. The facilities include a year-round playground, one privately owned bathing beach and five unequipped city parks used for recreation purposes. Among the activities are summer swimming classes and a water carnival, a municipal Christmas tree, athletic leagues for school children, a boys' chorus of fifty, production of plays, community night for churches, recreation farm centers in the country, four storytelling centers in the parks during three months, folk dancing classes, basketry, weaving and art classes.

Plans for the future include the development in the churches of community centers to be conducted by the municipal authorities, the construction of an artificial lake, the development of an athletic field and a swimming tank, and the building of community tennis courts.

Waverly's Memorial Community House.—A Memorial Community House with grounds including a playground, tennis court and wading pool is the gift of Mrs. Henry Belin to the people of Waverly, Pennsylvania. The September-December 1923 issue of *The Community Center* describes the House as follows:

"In the basement of the House are bowling alleys, pool rooms, barber shop, men's lavatory and showers. On the first floor are the Post Office, canteen, reading room, sun parlor, lounge and the assembly hall seating about two hundred people. The assembly hall is used for moving pictures, dances, entertainments, athletic events and meetings of such organizations as the Scouts and the Grange. This floor also contains women's showers and a reception room which in the winter time is used as a kindergarten room. On the second floor is the public library with a radio set as one of its features and the private apartment of the residing executive secretaries."

A Board of Trustees, made up of the townspeople elected at an annual meeting, meet once a month with the executive secretaries who give reports of the House activities. Problems in connection with the work are brought before the Trustees, who decide all important questions. Six standing committees—social, civic, House, library, athletic and finance—made up of townspeople plan with the secretaries to help carry on the work.

No membership dues are required from those who enjoy the privileges of the House, although each has the opportunity of subscribing to a yearly maintenance fund. A part of the expenses are met through fees, hall rentals and receipts from the store sales.

The House supports a trained nurse who visits and cares for the sick and aged, and a kindergarten and playground on which are taught art, handwork, dramatics, sewing, basketry and basket ball practice.

Elcho's Community Building.—The Community House of Elcho, Wisconsin, said to be one of the most attractive in the State, occupies a space 100'x130'. From the large veranda a row of French doors open to the lounge, reception and cloak rooms. Large fireplaces piled with logs blaze a welcome to those who come. All of the equipment and facilities of a modern community building are to be found here from billiard rooms and bowling alleys to a gymnasium, smoking rooms and rooms for games and entertainments.

Playgrounds in Mexico City.—The public playgrounds presented to the City of Mexico by the American Colony as its gift on the occasion of the Centennial Celebration of 1921 have so impressed the local authorities that two more playgrounds have been laid out and completed.

South Orange, New Jersey, Adds to Its Play Space.—The village of South Orange, New Jersey, has acquired at an expenditure of practically \$73,000 a tract of land which will be used for park and playground purposes. The property is ideally located, one part of it adjoining Cameron Field, the village playground. The combination of these properties will give South Orange a recreation center of which the village may well be proud.

A New Center For Colored Folks.—The City of Key West, Florida, is to have a center for its colored citizens, to be known as the Booker T. Washington Center and Park. A year-round recreation worker (whose salary has been guaranteed by a group of sixteen colored men and women) has been employed to take charge of the center.

Courses in Playground Work.—In cooperation with Community Service in Cincinnati, the University of Cincinnati is giving a course in practical and theoretical aspects of playground work, including the history and background of the recreation movement, the organization and administration of playgrounds and other subjects. A regular fee of \$1.50 is charged for the course, which is given on Saturday afternoons during the last nine weeks of the second semester.

A Ki-Y Club.—The Amsterdam Kiwanis Club is conducting an unusually interesting program of activities for boys in its Ki-Y Club with a membership of sixty boys. The Boys' Work Secretary of the local Young Men's Christian Association is helping in the planning and carrying out of the program.

Each Ki-Y member is sponsored by a Kiwanian and four Kiwanis members are on hand at each meeting of the boys' club. And they are as enthusiastic as the boys!

A printed program of activities planned three months in advance is placed in the hands of each boy. Thirty-two points are given him if he participates in all the activities of each meeting. To keep membership in the Club a boy must secure 100 points each month.

A typical week's program follows:

Points Allowed

Attendance	1
Social Games	1
Health Habits	10
Games, Baseball	5
Athletics, Potato Race	5
Aquatics, 25-yard Swim	5
Citizenship	5
Refreshments.	—

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Training is given the boys in citizenship, in hygiene and first aid, and in thrift. The program is well-rounded and gives every boy a chance for physical and social development.

Making Merry on Hallowe'en.—King Tut with his chariots, his slaves and his dancing girls was the most original and amusing feature of the combination Mardi Gras and Masque with which Monroe, Michigan, celebrated its first community Hallowe'en. That the drivers of the two-wheeled chariots, struggling to keep their seats, and their attendants were all employees of the Weiss Manufacturing Company, and hard to identify in their new roles, only added to the interest. Other industries, clubs and fraternal organizations had floats with artistic or fantastic decorations, while the youth of the town strove for the various prizes for the most original or funniest make-up. The procession ended in the business square of the town, where the Queen of the Carnival, chosen in a voting contest, was crowned with appropriate ceremonies, and where the school children held a street carnival with side-show attractions. The city closed the main square of the town to all traffic, the local state militia company supplied the tents for the side shows, the band gave its services, merchants donated prizes, and it is believed every family in the city had part in the occasion.

At River Rouge the celebration was designed to reach the younger children. The parade with a tin pan band and with several hundred youngsters in false face and as ridiculous costume as attic or old clothes bag allowed, took place before dusk and ended at the city park. There the Boy Scout Troop prepared a dozen or so camp fires at which frankfurters were roasted and picnic fare enjoyed.

A mammoth bonfire with red fire and torches was the high point of the Hallowe'en celebration at Albion and drew most of the population of the town to Victory Park as the parade arrived there. The band contributed its services, a witches' caldron with appropriate ghostly attendants formed the scene on one of the floats, a prominent automobile merchant went back to his boyhood days and drove a much decorated hay wagon, while the children of the town turned out in costume for the jolly celebration.

In each town the city officials and merchants commented on the absence of the usual Hallowe'en disorder and were enthusiastic over the community observance.

A Proper Ending!—The Parent-Teachers Associations in some of the schools at Kalamazoo always end their sessions with an hour of social games in the school gymnasiums. They have a large attendance of men, and the officers are enthusiastic about the interest and spirit these game hours are arousing.

Recreation on a Large Scale.—The Industrial Mutual Association at Flint has 10,500 members in its recreation department. The Association has a long lease on the five upper floors of a new bank building, and its facilities include a large gymnasium and running track, also used for dances, a smaller room for boxing, sixteen bowling alleys, twenty pool and billiard tables, a large lounge and reading room, small rooms for the women members, and a dining room with an outside balcony. The fittings would do credit to a metropolitan club. Dances, athletic events, Sunday afternoon concerts and special attractions make a full program, and the facilities of the club are used to capacity.

A Golden Jubilee.—With a program of monthly events in which recreation occupies an important place, Pasadena, California, announces its Fiftieth Anniversary in 1924. Music and drama, art, pageantry, special day celebrations, social recreation, hiking, sports and all forms of leisure time activities except winter sports are featured in the calendar of events. "If all this intrigues you," runs the invitation, "pay us a visit in our Jubilee Year, 1924."

Singing in the Army.—Soldiers in 106 army camps throughout the country are to have the opportunity of singing the old familiar songs when the *Sing Them Again* series of song novelty pictures are shown at the various cantonments. The Government found singing of very great value during the war, and the revival of the old songs will, it is believed, stimulate the morale of troops in the camps.

Saturday Movies.—Jamestown, New York, has been added to the list of cities giving Saturday morning moving pictures for children. The activity, according to *Film Progress* for January, is sponsored by the Recreation Commission which each week distributes from 100 to 200 free tickets to children who might

otherwise not have the opportunity of seeing the films. The programs are made up of news, comic and feature pictures with one special educational film. The best pictures available are secured, the films being chosen by a committee selected from the Recreation Commission, the mothers' clubs and other local groups.

Books for Boys.—The Rotary Club of North Carolina, according to the North Carolina Community Program of January 20, 1924, has issued a list of books for boys of various ages. The committee in charge of the selection of books is made up largely of educators, librarians and business men. Among others serving on the committee were Dr. Myron T. Scudder of the Scudder School, James Roe, writer on current events, and John Martin, editor of *John Martin's Book*.

Denver's Community Players.—A little over a year ago the Community Players of Denver started their career with members ranging from twelve to eighty-four years of age. At the end of the first season there were 155 members. The Community Players welcome all who are interested in their activities. The fee for active membership is \$1.50, for sustaining \$25, while patrons—for the most part community organizations—pay \$100. Last year among the plays produced were: *A Dinner with Complications*, *Joint Owners in Spain*, *The Littlest Girl*, *Manner and Modes* and *The Maker of Dreams*. Programs were put on by the Players for the Adult Blind Association, the Women's Club, a number of schools, the Orphans' Home, the hospital, the Social Welfare Association and other groups. In these eighteen outside programs 300 players were used in the casts and 15,000 people saw the performances.

The public schools have co-operated by giving the Players posters prepared by pupils in the Art Department and by furnishing student orchestras. Among the new activities for the second year are a playwriting class, prizes offered for the best play, and a drama study class.

Art Interests Thrive in Augusta.—Community Service of Augusta and Richmond County, Georgia, has a group of enthusiastic authors of stories, plays and verse who meet regularly to discuss writing. This group, which numbers about twelve, is the outgrowth of a committee

in the Community Players called the Playwriting Committee. Several of the members have recently published plays and others have published verse and stories to their credit.

Augusta also has a permanent community orchestra which will give a series of Sunday afternoon concerts during February and March. The orchestra is made up of professional and amateur musicians. A number of local leaders have offered their services as directors.

A Musical City.—Ottumwa, Iowa, a community of less than 25,000 people, conducts an unusually broad and ambitious musical program. The Ottumwa Music Club, of which Mrs. Frank P. Hofmann is President, sponsors an artists' course of three numbers, has two study groups in music appreciation, gives a series of three vespers during the year in churches in different parts of the city, and holds regular monthly programs, half of which are recitals by club members, half by outside talent from other cities. In addition, the Club sponsors a Junior Music Club and several juvenile clubs. At Christmas it gave a program of music at the tuberculosis sanitarium. For three years music memory contests have been held, the Music Club giving a prize of \$10 to the winning school to be used in buying new records. The Club is now making plans for the organization of the community for National Music Week.

The Ottumwa Oratorical Society presents two programs a year. Last year the *Messiah*, *Elijah* and Henry Hadley's *Resurgam* were given.

Another interesting musical activity is the 113th Cavalry Band, supported partly by the military authorities and partly by municipal tax. The band, which consists of from forty to fifty pieces, plays a weekly program in the city park from May until October.

In the schools are glee clubs for boys and girls, an orchestra and a band. Last year *Hia-watha* was presented by the grade pupils and *Chimes of Normandy* by the High School pupils. At Christmas from 10 to 1,200 grade pupils sing Christmas carols in the High School auditorium. Last year, in addition to this feature, the High School students gave a carol program in conjunction with the Art Department, which supplied very beautiful and artistic tableaux.

A Juvenile Symphony Orchestra.—The Fort Worth, Texas, Public Recreation Board is promoting a Juvenile Symphony Orchestra open to all young people under twenty who are studying with music teachers in the city. The permission of these teachers is necessary before the children can be admitted to the weekly rehearsals. The orchestra will make its first public appearance at a music festival to be held the first week in May.

A Health Pageant.—Under the auspices of Boston Community Service a noteworthy pageant was produced in connection with the Boston Health Show. The scenario, written by Elizabeth Higgins Sullivan, was arranged in three divisions—the first portrayed the dawn of medicine ending with Pasteur; the second pictured the more important episodes in New England history as they affected public health—Zabdiel Boynton inoculating for smallpox; Linda Richards, the first graduate nurse; the first municipal water supply in Boston, and similar episodes. The third stage brought the action down to the present day in public health education.

There were approximately 350 people in the cast, representing Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts, dramatic clubs, churches, welfare organizations, public schools and similar groups. The beauty of the lines, the music and the costuming combined to make the pageant an unusually striking one.

One Way to Make Money.—Kennett Square, one of the small communities of Chester County, Pennsylvania, served by the County Recreation Director, Miss Mathilde Christman, for three years conducted a summer playground supported by a small group of interested citizens. At the end of the three years this committee, feeling that the whole community should assume responsibility for the support of the work, called in the County Recreation Director. It was decided to try to raise money through a Home Talent Circus.

The Circus has been held for two years and has come to be accepted as an annual event. Every one helps and great excitement prevails in the borough for the two nights of the Circus. There are side shows, animals, bareback riders, clowns and vendors calling their wares. Between \$400 and \$500 is raised each year—enough to pay the expenses of the summer playground.

A News Bulletin.—A new activity of the Harmon Foundation, with headquarters at 140 Nassau Street, New York City, is the publication of a news bulletin telling of the work of the Foundation in its Student Loan Division and in the Division of Playgrounds. In the bulletin the plan of the Foundation in helping communities secure land for playgrounds is outlined, as well as its activities for students, and there are interesting facts presented on the projects of the Foundation.

The Gymnasium Director's Pocketbook.—The Narragansett Machine Company of Providence, Rhode Island, announces the publication of its 1924 *Gymnasium Director's Pocketbook*. Within the covers of this small book are to be found a great variety of valuable information from first aid remedies to a bibliography of physical training and recreation books.

The Child Health Magazine.—The American Child Health Association announces that with the January number, *Mother and Child*, the official publication of the Association makes its appearance in a new form and under a new name—*The Child Health Magazine*. With its pages doubled in size and with increased illustrations, it is hoped that the magazine will have a greatly enlarged field of service.

Getting the Press Back of the Playground.—During the playground season of 1923, the *Lynn Item*, one of the popular dailies of Lynn, Massachusetts, employed a special playground reporter who visited each playground daily and became thoroughly familiar with every playground activity, with the staff, and with children attending the playgrounds. The reporter was invited to be present at all staff meetings and from her observation of the work she was often able to make valuable suggestions.

The *Item* carried a daily playground column headed with attractive stencils of children. A cartoonist on the paper became so interested that once a week he ran a cartoon showing playground activities.

The Rutland, Vermont, *Herald* also had a special reporter who visited playgrounds daily and wrote special playground stories.

The Local Press Co-operates.—Through the co-operation of the local press the superintendent of recreation in Plainfield, New Jersey, is

given space in the sport page to present the week's athletic program. Increasingly recreation departments are finding the co-operation of local newspapers of great value to them in their work.

A City of Out-of-Door Sports.—The La Crosse, Wisconsin, Outdoor Sports Association—for health, strength and joy—is the outgrowth of a very successful indoor carnival held in 1922. Adults belonging to the Association pay a membership fee of one dollar, children fifty cents. The Association encourages all kinds of outdoor sports. It conducts horseshoe and indoor baseball leagues and is responsible for a large skating rink, toward the expenses of which the city this year appropriated \$600. The Association has stood back of a public bathing beach plan and has also sponsored the Curling Club. This club, which is made up largely of business and professional men—there are about 350 members—has created much enthusiasm. It maintains a club house on land donated by the button factory. Membership dues in the Curling Club are one dollar a year and a charge of ten cents an hour is made. The La Crosse bowlers with mixed membership represent another popular activity.

The splendid spirit of co-operation which exists in the city has made possible a broad recreation program. The development of a skating rink at the Hogan Field is an example of this. The city banked the large school playground at an expense of about \$1,500. The Parent-Teacher Association provided a warming house at a cost of approximately \$278, the men of the Association donating two and one-half days of service each. A few of the men who could not take the time to give volunteer labor sent contributions. The stove was donated. One man called up and said he heard they were going to build a warming house for the neighborhood rink and he would like to donate the glass for the windows. The city furnishes the coal, the Board of Education the light. The children collected \$134 for a toboggan and the Board of Education added \$25 to the amount. The Parent-Teacher Association is making plans to beautify the ground by inclosing it with a hedge.

Winter Sports.—The weather-man relented long enough to allow Buffalo to hold its first

Winter Carnival on January 20, and a dozen events were run off under the direction of J. F. Suttner, Director of Recreation. The following were the events:

1. 220-yard Dash, Boys 4 feet 10 inches and under (measurements taken with skates on)
2. 220-yard Dash, Girls 5 feet 2 inches and under (measurements taken with skates on)
3. 100-yard Dash for Boys under sixteen years
4. 440-yard Dash for Girls under sixteen years
5. 440-yard Novice Men (open to all skaters who did not win a prize at Delaware, Humboldt or Cazenovia last winter)
6. 440-yard Open to Men
7. Half-Mile Open to Women
8. Half-Mile City Championship for Men
9. One-Quarter Mile City Championship for Women
10. Quarter-Mile Team Race (Lady and Gentleman constituting team)
11. One Mile Relay (each man to skate 440 yards)
12. Fancy and Figure Skating for men and women (each contestant to skate two minutes)

Ten thousand fans braved the zero weather to watch the International Ski Tournament at Gary, Illinois.

The four-day Winter Carnival held at Manchester, New Hampshire, lived up to all expectations and will be written down in Manchester history as one of the biggest civic successes of the period. All the usual events known to carnival lore were scheduled and many new ones in addition. The parade of *Horribles* followed by a colorful Mardi Gras will stand out as one of the most spectacular events of the program. Fifteen hundred people in costumes of all conceivable kinds took part in the parade and twenty-five hundred people participated in the Mardi Gras. The climax of the Carnival came on the final day, with a three-mile parade in which local groups and business organizations had entries, and which was headed by Governor Brown, the Mayor and the Adjutant-General. A display

of fireworks and a mammoth bonfire were the final events of this remarkable program.

Boosting Winter Sports through the Libraries.—The Manchester, New Hampshire, Public Library is doing its share in the promotion of winter sports by having a special case devoted to books on outdoor winter sports and several attractive posters calling attention to the books. In the Carnival Parade the Library had a float showing a set of winters sports books about nine feet high and made of cambric over wooden frames, the decorations and colors duplicating the book represented.

Winter Sports.—Beverly, Massachusetts, is very proud of its well-built toboggan slide, costing, in actual dollars and cents, \$155. The slide, which is built on the hillside adjoining the High School Athletic Field, was constructed by the boys in the Continuation School. The labor of clearing, digging and path making was contributed by the Commission of Public Works. The slide is lighted at cost by the Electric and Gas Works. It is built at an angle of 33.2 degrees and the length of the wooden runway is 258 feet.

Fifteen toboggans have been donated by a number of local organizations to the Beverly Winter Sports Club, which will loan the toboggans free of charge to children and adults who do not own toboggans.

The Beverly Winter Sports Club was organized by the Chamber of Commerce to promote and foster winter sports until such time as the city can take over the supervision of winter recreation. The city has contributed \$750 to the Club for the building of skating rinks not only on the Athletic Field but in all sections of the community. In addition to the special appropriation, the Commission of Public Works has furnished extra labor and is co-operating with the Club. Buttons are being sold at \$1 each to defray extra expenses, although all members of the community, whether members of the Club or not, may take part in the winter recreation.

At the opening night all who are interested in the slide are invited to come try it out and get better acquainted over "hot dogs" and coffee.

Streets for Play.—"The rights of children," says *The Tribune* of Anderson, South Carolina, "were officially recognized by the City Council

at its regular meeting last night, when, at the request of Anderson Community Service, arrangements were made to reserve portions of certain streets for the children to roller skate on during certain hours and to bar all traffic therefrom at that time."

Recreation and Parent-Teacher Association.—The January *New York Parent-Teacher Bulletin*, published by the New York State Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association, has issued the following statement of its recreation program for the year:

"As we enter upon a new year of service, our State Board of Parent-Teacher Associations is planning to stress the recreational activities. Recreation means re-birth for better service; the toning up of wearied minds and bodies; the rejuvenation of the older ones; and the building of character for the young. It is to mental life what the sun's rays are to physical. Some one has said that what we earn when we work we put in our pocketbooks and what we spend when we play we put in our characters. If that be true, then we, parent-teachers, know that what we play, when we play, and how we play, are matters of great moment.

"With that thought in mind, we will consider each month some phase of recreation in order that we and our children may be better fitted to fill our places in the complex life about us. We will discuss our playgrounds; our winter neighborhood group activities; needs of small towns; commercial recreation; and other community problems. This year we ask you to think *play* in each of your groups.

"(Signed)

"LUCIA LAWRENCE KNOWLES."

A Word to the Wise?—A contributor to the Playground and Recreation Association of America writes:

"At the corner of the street where a large and well maintained playground is, the children rush from the playground to the streets, and when an automobile is coming stand in front of it sticking out their tongues. Lately, when we were driving through a street where the children had good front yards, a boy of twelve ran out of his yard and began skipping rope just in front of our automobile as a 'dare.' If we had not had good brakes and if we had not been going at a very low rate of speed, there would have been an accident."

Ought the directors of our playgrounds to talk definitely with the children on the playgrounds about the number of automobile accidents and the necessity for considering safety first? Automobile owners are concerned in securing places for the children to play away from the public streets. Ought we not to do all in our power to see that, when playgrounds have been provided, the children do make all proper use of the playgrounds and do not take unnecessary risks from automobiles? The baiting of automobiles is a dangerous game. You lose but once.

Crime and the Army.—In refuting the contention that the present increase in crime is due to army training, an article in the *American Legion Weekly* contains the following statement:

"The very best information on this subject comes from the surety companies themselves. William B. Joyce, chairman of the National Surety Company, puts our present day criminals almost entirely out of the range of army life. He does not do this for the purpose of diverting unthinking folks from discussing crime and army life as if they were synonymous. Indeed, he did not have the doughboy in mind, or even seem to feel that the ex-soldier needed any protection against crime charges when he took present-day crime apart and analyzed it.

"I dare say," he said, "that ninety per cent of the violent crimes of the country are committed by first and second offenders, mostly young men ranging from seventeen to twenty-two.

"There you are! It's a matter of plain arithmetic. The youngest of our present-day criminals were boys in knee-breeches, scampering around in the Armistice Day crowds in 1918, twelve-year-olds, and no more. The oldest of them, when the war ended, were still of high school age; seventeen, at the most. The criminals of today, who amaze and shock the land with violent deeds, were mere boys, too young for the army, on the day that the war came to an end.

"This is one of the most amazing facts that you come across in studying crime conditions in America today.

"The war may have produced crime, but the American army did not. It was the American boy on the sidewalks from eleven to sixteen years of age cheering as the soldiers marched

away who got the brunt of the war, so far as crime is concerned; not the older fellow, who was tramping along in the middle of the street."

—From the *American Legion Weekly*, November 30, 1923

An Official Storyteller.—Following recent action on the part of the Government, Germany now has an official storyteller in Fraulein Lisa Tetzner, a former school teacher. As did the bards and ballad singers of old, Fraulein Tetzner wanders from place to place in the industrial areas entertaining the children with tales of her own making and with stories from the treasury of German folk-lore. A majority of the boys in the mines, Fraulein Tetzner reports, are partial to *Gulliver's Travels* and *Puss in the Boots*, while the factory girls are inclined to prefer *Cinderella*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and similar stories.

The Rhineland children have been found to have the most romantic imaginations of all the children of Germany. Most of them are familiar with *Grimm's Fairy Tales* and with the legends of the Rhine country which have been handed down for generations.

The German Government has inaugurated this activity in the belief that it will help make normal the lives of the children who begin at an early age to work in the mines and factories and in whose lives there is little of romance or beauty.

Miss Their Playground.—Mrs. Charles Denison, Denver, Colorado, writes:

"I was interested to learn through my daughter, who has been spending some months in Geneva, Switzerland, that, though it has many and beautiful parks, there is not a single playground in the city, which her three children greatly deplored."

The American Physical Education Association to Meet in April.—The American Physical Education Association will hold its annual meeting at Kansas City, April 23-26, 1924. The program will include addresses by Carl Schraeder, President of the Association; Dr. Jesse F. Williams, Dr. Henry S. Curtis, Dr. Raymond G. Schwegler and other well-known speakers. There will be interesting discussions at the meetings of the following sections: Young Men's Christian Association; Public Schools; Men's College Directors; Women's College

Directors; Therapeutic; American Gymnastic Union and Industrial. The Committee on Athletics for Girls and Women will continue the discussions which aroused so much interest at the Springfield Conference.

In addition to the general addresses and section meetings, there will be demonstrations in gymnastic and swimming and minor and major league athletic meets.

Improving New York.—Thomas Adams, General Director of Plans and Surveys of the Committee on Plan of New York and Its Environs, gave a most interesting and instructive address at the Cosmopolitan Club, New York City, December 10th, under the auspices of the Municipal Art Society. In discussing the various problems entering into the making of a plan for the

greater metropolitan area, Mr. Adams mentioned as a consideration of prime importance, the necessity for greatly increasing the facilities and space for playground and recreation purposes as essential to the proper development of the child life and of a stronger, finer citizenship.

The plan upon which Mr. Adams and his assistants are engaged will include 200 incorporated and 200 unincorporated communities, 1,800 miles of railway and 1,800 miles of water front. From this may be inferred what a great problem is the scientific and artistic planning of an area so great as this for the service of a population of 9,000,000, at the present time, which is increasing so rapidly that it is estimated there will be a population of 18,000,000 in this area within thirty years.

Church Recreation

The Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has had an interesting experience in developing recreation programs and leadership. The methods used are described by E. O. Harbin, Superintendent of Recreation and Culture.

"The first need that seemed to face us was that of suitable material for church recreation programs. In endeavoring to meet this need we issued *Phunology*. We also endeavored to call the attention of our young people to the best source material.

"There was a vital need also for a trained leadership to take care of the recreation program in the various churches and communities. In endeavoring to meet this need we have developed a course in recreational leadership for use in our summer Assemblies and Institutes. At Fort Worth last spring we experimented with a Play Institute idea with very gratifying results. In this Institute the workers met together for five evenings during the week. The course included two classes each night in Play Theory and Practice with a forty-five minutes play demonstration period between classes. We endeavor to do three things in Institute work. The first is to convince those taking the course of the importance and value of an adequate play program. The second, is to give them an insight into the play motives and leadership principles upon which their program must be grounded. The third, is to show them in a practical way how to take care of such

a program in the Church. A typical outline of topics used in our class work follows:

1. Why the Church must put on a play program
2. Play motives and how to satisfy them
3. The rhythmic instinct and what the Church can do to satisfy it
4. Types the recreational leader has to handle
5. How to teach games
6. A graded recreation program for the local Church
7. The use of dramatics in the Church
8. Making a good social (A discussion of all the elements that enter into the making of a good social)
9. The social. Its purpose, place, frequency, finance, attendance and advertising
10. Problems of the recreational leader

"Other subjects that are often substituted for some of those mentioned are as follows:

1. What is play and why do we play?
2. Play and growth—physical, mental and moral
3. Qualities of a good recreation leader
4. Play progression.

"This summer at Lake Junaluska in our general Epworth League Assembly, in addition to a course in Recreation Leadership, we had a very splendid course running through ten days on The Use of Dramatics. This was taught by an expert in that particular field."

A Retrospect

By

JAMES M. BECK

Solicitor General of the United States

One thing is clear—that nothing can stop the influence of a mechanical age in lessening the hours of labor, and if there is to be any salvation for human society, it must lie in the better utilization by man of his lengthening hours of leisure. That he may wisely use these, it is necessary that he should be given a truer sense of the values of human life, and this should be the mission of the great institutions which mold human thought, like the church, the school, the press, the theatre.

"Let us recall as best we can the 25th day of April, 1899, when this society was born. It was a very different world then from that in which we are now living. The space-annihilating telephone was but beginning to extend its vast antennae throughout the land, and the motor car, which has had so fateful effect upon human life and character, was still the plaything of a few. The marvels of the radio were undreamed-of possibilities. The possibility of an airplane was regarded as much a myth as the flight of Icarus through the skies. No one then dreamed that we would gather out of the skies a mixed jargon of human song and speech, and no one ever dreamed of the final blasphemy of streaking with dirty smoke the azure of God's heaven in order to advertise a cigarette.

WAR KILLED OPTIMISM

"Has man made any true progress in this last quarter of a century? Before the World War he who asked such a question would have raised a doubt as to his sanity, and yet the very word 'progress' was almost unknown prior to the Nineteenth Century, the word 'civilization' is purely its creation, and thoughtful men would differ widely as to its true definition. Prior to the World War, the dominant note of human thought was one of unbounded optimism, but when the whole top of the world blew off in 1914 and man pulled himself out of the most gigantic wreckage in the world's history, thoughtful men of our time first began to wonder whether progress could be measured in terms of thermodynamics.

"Nor can the progress of mankind be measured merely by the greater diffusion of human comforts and the accretion of material wealth. Was

it not very well said by old Doctor Goldsmith:

"'Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay.'

"The only test of progress or retrogression is the growth or decay of the average man. He is no wiser if he can talk by the radio a thousand miles instead of a hundred feet unless he has something to say by the radio or the telephone which is better worth saying. Science has given us sound amplifiers, but unfortunately they cannot amplify thought. Better a Hamlet printed on a hand press than some banalities of today upon a rotary. Nor does man progress when he travels four miles a minute through the skies, and thus outflies the eagle, unless he travels to better purpose than did our forbears, when it required at least two days to journey from New York to Philadelphia.

"But how can the growth or deterioration, as the case may be, of the average man be determined? One criterion, it seems to me, is the change for better or worse of the great primitive institutions of man, like the church, the school, the theatre, and, since Gutenberg, the press. Of these, the most significant, possibly, is the press, for it can be truly said of the newspaper, as Shakespeare said of the theatre, the newspaper of his day:

"'They are the abstract and brief chronicles of the time; after your death you were better to have a bad epitaph than their ill report while you live.'

PRESS MANKIND'S MIRROR

"The press seems to be the mirror in which mankind can view itself in order to determine its own moral growth. Believing this, it occurred to me to compare a newspaper of twenty-five years ago with the same newspaper of today, and, in

*Address before the Pennsylvania Society, December 15, 1923.

order to make the comparison a fair one, I selected that newspaper which, by common consent, is not surpassed, and possibly not equaled, by any other American newspaper. I refer to *The New York Times*. I do not affirm that it is the best paper in America, for the fate of Paris warns me not to make the hazardous attempt to award the apple between such capricious and jealous goddesses as are the owners and editors of newspapers. I content myself with saying that there is none better for the purpose of the comparison that I have in mind.

"I made an examination of *The New York Times* for April 26, 1898, and then compared it with its issue for December 4, 1923, and the comparison was most suggestive to me in indicating the comparative tendencies of the times. The earlier issue was fortunate in dealing with great events. On the day the society was organized Congress recognized a state of war between Spain and the United States.

THE TIMES IN 1898

"Little we then recognized that the swift events of the succeeding three months would mean the last breath of what had once been the greatest colonial world empire and the beginning of a new republican world power, upon whose flag, flying as an emblem of dominion from the coast of Maine to the Philippine Islands, at the very gates of China, the sun never sets. On that day John Sherman resigned as Secretary of State, and it was announced in Washington that a comparatively unknown young man who was then the Assistant Secretary of the Navy would transfer his amazing energies from one arm of the service to the other by enlisting a 'cowboy regiment,' as it was then called, for service in Cuba. How little one then realized the brilliant future of that great and heroic personality! At the theatres Richard Mansfield was playing 'The First Violin,' Sol Smith Russell was giving 'A Bachelor's Romance,' and 'Carmen' was being played at the opera. There were then no vaudeville theatres or moving picture shows. It may interest some of my audience whose habitat is Wall Street, to add that all of us with a little capital could have become millionaires, for on that day Atchison was selling at \$10 a share, General Electric at \$30, Southern Pacific at \$12 and Union Pacific at \$18 a share.

"The earlier issue of *The Times* contained 12 pages and 84 columns; the later issue 40 pages and 320 columns. *The Times* has thus quadrupled in size, and if the quantitative ideal which

now governs civilization is the true test, the present-day *Times* is a greater newspaper. This possible satisfaction is somewhat lessened when I state that while the earlier issue contained 15 columns of advertisements, or approximately one-sixth of the newspaper, the later issue contained 202 columns of advertisements, or two-thirds of the issue. The day of the full-page department store advertising had not begun in 1898, and it may well be questioned whether the immense dominance of a few full-page advertisements has added anything either to the dignity or independence of journalism.

NEARLY HALF POLITICS

"Of the 84 columns of the earlier issue there were 32 columns, a little less than one-half, which were given to national and international politics. In the later issue these great topics are only given 18 columns, or about one-twentieth of the newspaper. Exclusive of advertisements, the earlier issue gave about 70 columns of reading matter, and the topics selected ran in a much narrower channel than the later issue—

- 5 columns of editorials
- 1 column of shipping news
- 2 columns of dramatic and musical reviews
- 13 columns of financial news
- 2 columns of real estate news
- 4 columns of legal news

"These comprised the chief topics. Two subjects were conspicuous by their almost complete absence: the one was humor, the other was sports. One-half column was given to poetry and jokes, and one and one-half columns to sports. This allotment to athletics has grown tenfold to thirteen columns in the present-day *Times*. Then, as now, *The Times* refused to lower the tone of journalism by a page of so-called 'comics.' Possibly nothing better illustrates the degeneracy of taste than the fact that a quarter of a century ago men still enjoyed 'Sir John Falstaff.' Today it is 'Andy Gump.' The two Dromios of the 'Comedy of Errors' are now almost forgotten, but each day we have the monotonous banalities of 'Mutt and Jeff.'

"The increased dominance of athletic sports in our day is a social phenomenon to which too little attention has been paid. It is not without some justification, for as a mechanical civilization has so largely eliminated real physical labor from life there is an instinctive demand of man to prevent physical decay by finding some outlet for his physical powers.

CHANGE IN SENSE OF VALUES

"Nevertheless, its dominating interest in our day has become a serious problem, for it indicates that the real change in the average man is in his sense of values. Today, we have lost a true sense of values, and such loss has been in the past the significant sign of the decay of a civilization. If Dempsey and Firpo had fought twenty-five years ago, the newspapers on the morning after the fight might have given a column to it, but today the modern newspaper will give whole pages to a wholly unimportant and rather brutal contest for weeks and months before the event, and for weeks thereafter. Where a few hundred people would have witnessed the prize fight, for such it was, a quarter of a century ago, a hundred thousand will today journey from the four ends of the earth to see Dempsey and Firpo punch each other for a few fleeting moments. What is more significant, thousands of women are now spectators, even as Roman matrons 2,000 years ago turned down their thumbs upon the gladiators of the Coliseum, who were 'butchered to make a Roman holiday.' *Panem et circenses*—bread and the circus—was the prelude to the fall of the Roman Empire.

"The value of athletic sports to those who actually participate in them can not be denied, but those who are merely spectators gain nothing but amusement. In the greatest age of Greece, the Academy, where men communed upon the 'true, the beautiful, and the good,' and the palaestrum, where the youth of Athens wrestled and developed their physical power, were one institution. If the Athenian youth loved to wrestle, he also loved his Homer. The Homer that the youth of today best loves is the kind that 'Babe' Ruth contributes to the delight of an hysterical multitude. The chief amusement of today is the vaudeville show or a moving picture spectacle. The one saves concentrating of thought on any one subject for three hours, the other gives the maximum of emotional impression with the minimum of thought. The Athenian had the true sense of *mens sana in corpore sano*; but the later degeneracy of Athens and centuries later the decay of Rome was measured by the love of the hippodrome, where only a few contended and tens of thousands merely gratified the primitive lust for brutality as spectators.

AGE OF THE HIPPODROME

"The press of today indubitably shows that we are in the age of the hippodrome, that even in our

colleges where the well-born youth of our country should be trained to defend in these critical days our institutions the class-room has been largely superseded by the stadium.

"Our institutions must depend, in the last analysis, upon an intelligent and militant public opinion. That venerable parchment at Washington, upon which the Constitution of the United States was written, has no inherent vigor to perpetuate itself. It was brought into existence by a people who took a most active and intelligent interest in public affairs and who had that genius for self-restraint without which the Constitution could never have been formulated or administered. I said recently in a newspaper article that while it was miraculous that one man could have written the plays of Shakespeare, it was as great a miracle that there had been a sufficiently receptive public in the 'specious days of Queen Elizabeth' to assimilate them.

PEOPLE MUST BE RECEPTIVE

"A receptive people was quite as necessary to this noble monument to human wisdom as an inspired poet, for the prosperity of truth as well as of a jest 'lies in the ear of him who hears it.' However wise our Constitution may be, our form of government cannot continue unless there is a people sufficiently receptive to make it workable; and if that people have lost interest in public affairs and are only concerned with the hippodrome or the moving picture theatre, then sooner or later our Government, like a stricken oak in the forest, will fall—and great would be the fall thereof.

"Two years before this earlier issue of *The Times*, there was a great electoral contest in this country. It was the McKinley-Bryan campaign. The issue was a simple one: Should the United States repudiate, in part, its own obligations and enable individual debtors, in part, to repudiate theirs by making a 50-cent silver dollar the equivalent of a 100-cent gold dollar by legislative fiat? The campaign of 1896 was a simple illustration and vindication of the ability of the American people to govern themselves wisely. They knew little of political economy, but they took a profound and militant interest in the right or wrong of the question. From June, 1896, when the candidates were nominated and the platforms adopted, until the election there was conducted throughout the country an amazing campaign of education. Millions of dollars were spent and hundreds of thousands of men marched weekly, and

in some places nightly, in defense of the party whose principles they accepted.

LACK INTEREST IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"No such campaign is possible today, for the people are not interested in public affairs as they once were. Where they gladly listened to tens of thousands of speakers in 1896, today there are not ten men in this country who, by the magic of their names, could fill a single hall to discuss public affairs. Where twenty-five years ago thousands of men would have given their time and energy and money for five months to their party, today comparatively few would lift a finger in any contest. In recent elections, less than one-half of the electorate had enough interest even to vote. In one national contest recently held, only 17 per cent of the registered vote cast their ballots.

"The fault does not lie in the absence of interesting issues. No question since the Civil War had such intrinsic interest or lasting importance as the great problems of the League of Nations. Whether we believed in it or not, the underlying question was the attitude of the United States to the rest of the world and its policy with reference thereto. I did not believe in the League and traveled from Bar Harbor to Los Angeles to explain the grounds of my opposition to it, and the one inescapable impression that this journey made on my mind was that, with the exception of a few classes, the people did not greatly care whether we entered the League or stayed out of it.

NEWSPAPER'S RESPONSIBILITY

"To what extent is the modern newspaper contributory to this loss of a true sense of the values of human life? Here, again, the comparison between the two issues of a really great newspaper may be helpful.

"The older newspaper restricted its columns to comparatively few topics. It gave the mind of the average man something that he could really assimilate. Moreover, its allotment of space was based on the comparative importance of a few topics which it selected as news.

"The later issue of *The Times* runs through the whole gamut of human life. Nothing that is human is foreign to it. I classified the topics in the older issue under twenty heads, and in the later issue under forty-four heads.

"This suggests the grave question whether the mind of man is not being submerged in an ocean of printer's ink, and whether the capacity for thought and action is not being dulled by the mul-

tiplicity of subjects which each day are crowded on his brain.

"Let me suggest an analogy. If I were to take a walk of thirty miles outside of this great city, I would see from morning to evening many beautiful sights of ineffaceable memory in the hills and valleys that surround New York. If, however, I took the Twentieth Century Limited and traveled forty times as far in the same time, I would, when I alighted at Chicago, have a very vague impression of crossing a few rivers and tunneling through a few mountains and passing through a few towns and cities. The multiplicity of images which would thus be flashed upon my brain from the window of my express train would prevent any one view from impressing itself either upon my imagination or memory.

TRAVELING NOW AT EXPRESS SPEED

"Enlarging the metaphor, we are traveling, as the press indicates, by the express train. Images flashed upon our consciousness are too transient for intelligent assimilation. Moreover, the pernicious habit of breaking up newspaper articles in order to have as many leading topics on the first page as possible causes such scattered and unsure observances that it tends to make us an age of scatterbrains. If, after reading in fragments fifteen or twenty different and unrelated topics, we reach one clear conclusion or form one useful resolution, then, before we do anything, the evening paper comes out and crowds out of our brain, whose capacity is limited, the useful impressions of the morning.

"The founders of this Republic were clearheaded, because the issues of life were extremely simple, and they concentrated their time and energies upon them. Today, the mind of man is little more than a moving-picture show, upon whose screen events are momentarily flashed with lightning rapidity. Thus hopelessly confused by the multiplicity of subjects, the average man today cannot concentrate on a great public issue as he did one hundred years ago, or even twenty-five years ago.

"You may agree with me in this diagnosis, but you may ask, what is the remedy?

"Time would not permit me to discuss it even though I had the ability. One thing is clear—that nothing can stop the influence of a mechanical age in lessening the hours of labor, and if there is to be any salvation for human society, it must lie in the better utilization by man of his lengthening

(Continued on page 657)

Recreation in the Oregon Hop Fields

In the great hop fields of the Willamette Valley in Oregon, which annually produce over eight million pounds of hops for the markets of the world, there was carried on last autumn an experiment in recreation and welfare work which was unique in the history of such programs on the Pacific Coast.

THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED

During the hop harvesting season in September, over ten thousand pickers are employed on the Oregon ranches, and the conditions and problems which arise out of bringing so large a body of people together in temporary camps had become so serious that the future of the industry was threatened. Any crop is valueless unless it can be harvested quickly and cleanly at the proper

and being familiar with the recreation work carried on by Portland Community Service, she suggested a similar program for the hop growers as a possible remedy for the situation. As a result, a meeting was arranged between H. N. Ord, manager of the Eola ranch of the E. Clemons Horst Co., the largest hop ranch in the world, and J. C. Henderson, who holds the joint position of Community Service executive and supervisor of recreation for the city of Portland. After this conference Mr. Henderson was made director of the three camps on the Eola ranch.

The ranch contains one thousand acres of which five hundred are in hops. A thousand pickers are employed. These workers usually bring with them about five hundred non-pickers, the majority of whom are children. Most of the employees



A VIEW OF THE CAMP

time. This result was being obtained with great difficulty not only in the hop industry, but also to a certain extent in the apple, prune and other small fruit industries whose product requires hand picking.

In many camps unsanitary conditions prevailed in spite of the efforts of state inspectors, no amusement was available for the pickers, and vice flourished. As a result, the labor turnover was tremendous, the quality of the work done was poor, and often the growers suffered financial loss because of low prices for dirty hops and through failure to complete the harvest before the autumn rains began.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

Early in 1923, Miss Louise Shield, a feature writer for the *Oregonian*, a Portland newspaper, was sent to the hop fields to write a series of articles. She discussed conditions with the growers,

are housed in two large temporary camps a mile apart, known as Camps 1 and 3, while a few special workers live at Camp 2, halfway between the other camps. The pickers live in tents furnished by the company; in most cases they do their own cooking on improvised stoves in front of their tents. The camps are laid out around a nucleus of wooden buildings which house such concessions as the grocery, meat market and other shops at which the pickers purchase most of their supplies.

The work to be done, as mapped out by Mr. Henderson and Mr. Ord, came under three main heads—camp maintenance, employee service and recreation. Under camp maintenance came the laying out of camps, tent pitching, policing, camp sanitation, and firewood and water supply. Employee service included first aid and preventive work, transporting serious cases to town for treatment, or arranging for medical attention to

be given at camp; maintaining camp post offices; making small purchases for pickers at near-by towns; issuing a mimeographed daily camp newspaper, and the supervising of concessions such as grocery, meat market, restaurant and barber. The recreation program included the installation of simple playgrounds with day nurseries attached,



A LITTLE PUZZLED ABOUT THEIR FIRST PLAYGROUND

nightly camp fire meetings at the two big camps, social dances and special programs for Sunday afternoons. On Wednesday evenings a short religious service was held at each camp under the auspices of the Salvation Army.

Most of the items included under camp maintenance and employee service are commonly found in the large picking camps, although particular attention was paid to sanitary provisions, and the medical service was more highly developed than is usual. The daily paper and the installation of a recreation program under paid leadership were innovations, and the experiment was eagerly watched by other growers.

THE RECREATION PROGRAM

Playground Nurseries

Two simple playgrounds were installed with homemade apparatus built by ranch carpenters from specifications in the "Home Play" handbook of the Playground and Recreation Association of America. Apparatus included sand-boxes, teeters, swings, horizontal ladders, and slides. These last were built on hillsides and were about forty feet long. Ordinary finished lumber was used in their construction, and the desired "slippery" surface was obtained by the simple expedient of having the youngsters sit on waxed bread wrappers from the camp store for the first few days the slides were in use. The playgrounds were located under huge pine trees where the dense shade kept them cool in spite of the intense heat elsewhere. These playground nurseries were built so that mothers need not take their children into the hop fields. Over a hundred small children were taken care of

daily by the two playgrounds, each of which was under the direction of a competent playground worker and a nurse.

Around the Camp Fire

The camp fire meetings proved to be the most popular form of recreation. At first the programs consisted largely of community singing and a few pre-arranged boxing matches. After the ice was broken, however, the pickers contributed most of the stunts on the program, including many kinds of stringed instrumental music both in solo and combination, dancing acts of all kinds from jig and clog steppers to a real Hawaiian hula dancer, vocal numbers in great variety, some piano music, slack wire acts and tumbling, lifting and balancing stunts. Toward the end of the camp a complete vaudeville show was held at each camp, a stage and simple lighting effects being constructed by pickers. These programs drew from two to five hundred people at each camp every night. At the Sunday afternoon programs, boxing, wrestling, horseshoes, stunts, games and athletic events were featured, culminating in a farewell event on the Sunday preceding the close of the season. At this affair a beauty contest was held, and a queen chosen. Pickers from all the camps on the ranch and many people from surrounding ranches and towns gathered to do homage to "Queen Eola," after which she and her court were taken



MOTHERS DID NOT HAVE TO TAKE THEIR CHILDREN INTO THE FIELDS LAST SUMMER

to Independence, the nearest town, as guests of the Chamber of Commerce.

More Popular than Dancing

The question of social dancing presented a serious problem. In former years dancing had been almost the sole amusement, the pickers leaving the ranch to go to some near-by dance halls which in most instances were of the lowest type. It was decided to remodel and utilize for dances two

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Does the Small Town Need a Playground?

By

H. E. YOUNG

Had you asked one of the good citizens of Pittsfield, New Hampshire, why he voted a small sum of money to cover the expense of play under leadership for the coming summer, he would have replied, "Well now, you see we don't need a place like that for the kids to play in because there's plenty of room in their own yards, but since Mrs. Carpenter and Mr. Drake gave this Field to the town several years ago we thought we ought to do something to show our appreciation. Of course, you can't do anything in this town because it is too small to need that sort of thing. You mustn't get discouraged, for you'll be doing mighty well if you have five or six kids here in the course of the day."

With this most encouraging outlook we began playground work two years ago on the Drake Athletic Field in this little New England town of less than two thousand people. It was an innovation and those who did not openly ridicule it during the first few weeks maintained a silent neutrality. As things stood it did look hopeless, for on the splendid grounds of the Athletic Field there was not a single piece of apparatus nor any of the normal equipment of a playground.

The first day we made some beanbags, and armed with these and a few stories began activities. Our attendance for that day was ten. As the swings, teeter boards and games were added, the interest of the children grew greater and greater until by the latter part of July it became evident that the Field was a success. In August we decided to ask for subscriptions to cover the cost of a giant stride and within thirty minutes the paper showed twenty signatures covering the necessary fifty dollars. From that day forth there was never a moment of doubt that the playground had become an established institution in that town. Mothers began to bring their children from greater distances. Usually they would spend the first afternoon on the Field to see what was happening; but after that the children came alone while the mothers enjoyed the first freedom they had known in years.

During the last weeks of August the maximum number on the Field at one time in the afternoon reached 125 nearly every day. Everyone was most enthusiastic and there was no doubt that

another year would see the experiment continued. Most of our time had been spent in planning and installing new apparatus, so that we had not devoted the usual care to developing a regular program. Toward the end of the season it became evident that this very neglect was the basis of our success.

During the following winter the townspeople, with hardly a dissenting voice, more than doubled the amount that had been voted the preceding year. That enabled us to buy a slide which was installed about the middle of July. For over two weeks there was a waiting line of from forty to eighty at the slide all the time. We did not start to use all our apparatus at once but, on one excuse or another, let them come into use gradually with the result that all were more appreciated by the children. It is a fatal mistake to give the children on such a playground too much of any one thing. We found that it is far better to have a waiting line at one piece of apparatus for a week than to let each child have his fill of just what he likes best. Toward the end of the first year we learned this lesson from the failure of our wheels. One of the men of the town who was much interested in our work had noted a very interesting type of merry-go-round made by sticking the axle of a discarded buggy wheel in the ground at an angle. There were innumerable tricks that could be done on this and it would keep three or four children interested at once. When it met with instant success, we installed four more, since they could be had for the asking. No sooner did a boy get a chance to perform on one of these for a half hour without interruption, and what may be more important, without audience, than he lost all interest and could not be persuaded to try it again. We removed all but one wheel for the second year and it regained much of its lost attraction. While there is no limit to the number of different kinds of apparatus that may be used, our experience showed it was not advisable to have more than one of any kind save the swings and teeter boards, two of which will prove sufficient in the long run.

From the first day of last summer our attendance was very high. The same citizens who had ridiculed the small beginnings of the preceding

year became our best supporters. On pleasant days it was possible to count from 175 to 250 on the Field at any time in the afternoon, and from eighty to a hundred in the evening. When the Chautauqua came, we feared that our weekly report would be very lean but there was no visible loss, for while most of the crowd left in time for the meeting, we noticed that they all returned as soon as the session was concluded. One day I went down to the Field during a pouring rain-storm and found forty or fifty using the slide which they assured me was most slippery at that time. On Saturday the local baseball team played games with the neighboring towns and this helped swell our total attendance. For the two months, July 1st to September 1st, our records showed a total of 24,685 persons on the Field. Not all of them came from Pittsfield, however, for we knew of one family that came regularly by auto from a distance of 18½ miles. Others came each day from the near-by towns so that we estimated that at least one in every ten children lived more than five miles away. Many walked in from the out-lying farms.

Discipline became an almost negligible item in the day's work. The first year we averaged one punishment every four days. Most of these were for swearing, only two in the season for fighting. Aside from swearing, most of the discipline centered on our insistence that fair play amounted to more than a bully's will. Boys who had never been denied anything by their weaker fellows quickly found themselves unable to command obedience and lost as much in prestige as the victims gained in pleasure. Last year punishments were two weeks apart on an average and only one was for bullying. The children seemed very quick to learn how to play a clean, fair game and by the end of the year we were able to spend a large part of our time talking to adults and visitors. One of the Grammar School teachers remarked that these lessons had been carried into the play at school and that her work in that direction had been made easier.

Our games did not differ widely from those used on most playgrounds except for the fact that we used archery as one of the major sports. There is a touch of the romantic in the bow and arrow that attracts everyone. Moreover, it is a dignified sport that appeals to boys and girls who have reached a self-conscious age when ordinary games seem childish. On a burning summer day archery will lead all other attractions save those in the

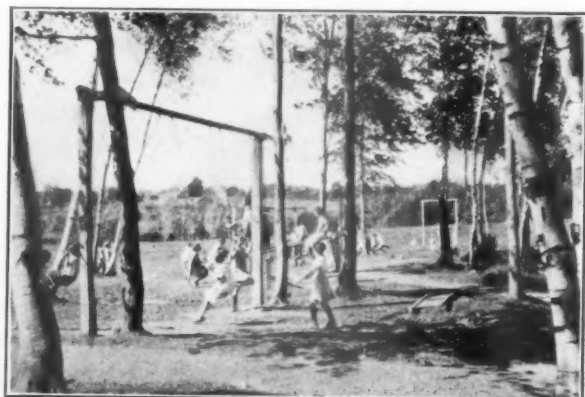
water. As a result, we rarely saw less than twenty or thirty young people waiting their turn under the shade of the birches.

In the city little advertising can be done but the country play field is largely dependent upon it. The local papers welcome the opportunity to be of service. Through them the farmers can be



AN ATTRACTIVE CORNER ON PITTSFIELD'S PLAYGROUND

reached and made to feel that the townspeople have no monopoly as long as the Ford is running well. When parents visit the playground they must be made to feel that their children will find there good associates, health and safety. The parents of country children seem to take a more active interest in what the children do than do city parents, so much so that we met on the Field the older members of each family represented.



SWINGS ARE ALWAYS BUSY ON THE PITTSFIELD PLAYGROUND

Nor did they come to complain; in fact, the only complaint of last summer resulted in the blame being fixed on the children for whom a mother demanded justice.

At the start of the first summer we had so little material that there was no need to keep track of it. As more was added we tried to make the

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Carrying the Gospel of Play to the Rural Community

By

EDNA S. LANDERS

Dean of Women, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

Ricker, racker, firecracker
Sis boom bah!
Chehaw, Chehaw!
Rah! Rah! Rah!!

Acker, lacker, ching
Acker, lacker chow
Acker lacker chin chin chow chow chow
Rip o rest, rip o rest
Sweet Gum, Sweet Gum is the best!

No, these are not yells of frenzied football rooters but cheers from two of the Girls' Clubs from 25 school communities of Macon County, Alabama, attending the initial annual Girls' Day at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Alabama. Mindful, alike, that "all work and no play makes Jane a dull girl," that "her voice was ever soft, gentle and low, an excellent thing in woman," and that "the girls of today are the women of tomorrow," the Institute cooperated

with the County Superintendent of Negro Schools in issuing a call to the girls of Macon County.

The invitation to meet at Tuskegee brought out 362 girls from the Negro school communities of the county. In hilarious mood they began arriving early in the morning of the day set—on foot, in wagons, in trucks and in flivvers, accompanied by teachers and parents. As they filled the Institute Chapel, the place of meeting, the girls rallied around their banners, proclaiming the name of the school. The girls exhibited these emblems of their identification proudly and constantly, almost in the spirit of "never let the flag touch the ground." Recreation, how to get it and how to use it in the rural community, was the keynote of the talks and features of the day.

"I am glad that this is Girls' Day. Tuskegee is interested in girls as well as in boys. It is interested in women, particularly young women because they represent the hope of the Negro race," said Principal Robert R. Moton in his address of welcome to the eager, young faces confronting him in the Institute Chapel. For years Boys' Day for the twenty Alabama counties with Negro

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PART OF THE GROUP THAT ASSEMBLED AT THE CALL OF TUSKEGEE

From a Recreation Executive

TO THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET COMMITTEE
Cincinnati Community Chest
Cincinnati, Ohio

GENTLEMEN:

I have been asked by Mr. Shroder to give you my views of what Community Service in Cincinnati should be and what it should cost. This is at once a difficult and an interesting task. Difficult, because in a brief paper it is hardly possible to set forth in full the *reasons* that called it into being and that continuing in the life of today in scarcely diminished form, convince some of us that it should be retained as a dynamic factor in the life of our City; interesting, because it provides me with an opportunity I always welcome, namely to attempt to make clear what Community Service in Cincinnati is trying to do.

It may be said, I think, that no Social Service agency can find justification for existence unless there is a recognized social problem for it to spend its efforts against, not only with reasonable hope of success, but without duplicating the effort of any other existing agency.

What, then, is the problem that justifies the existence of Community Service, or to put it in a simpler way, that justifies the existence of an agency with the policy and program of Community Service? For the name "Community Service" may be a misnomer, and is certainly somewhat ambiguous.

The storm and stress of the War period helped discover to all the combatant nations the fact that the complexities of modern industrial life had projected the individual's real interests *outside* of the shop, the factory and the store. That, in turn, caused us to consider the environmental influences of his leisure or free time, in the hope that these might be made to contribute to the development of men and women with the *power* and the *desire* to *give back* to the community something of *real value*. No better proof is needed of the existence of this point of view than the fact that our country to as great, if not a greater extent than any of our allies, raised millions of dollars voluntarily to be expended in strengthening the morale not only of our fighting men, but of our civilian population as well. No sum was considered too great to make and keep our people like-minded, cheerful, busy. No agency or organization was denied funds when it made its concern the physical, mental or moral well-being of the "boys" and their

relatives. It was recognized then that in properly directed leisure time *activities* we had instruments far more effective than any organized propaganda, to give men the desire and the *will* to do what they thought was right. For the first time one might almost say in the history of man, an organized and intelligent effort was made, both by our government and by our industrial leaders, to direct the thoughts and actions of men and women in the time they call their own. In order to keep them "fit" and "smiling" to give them the will to *work* as well as to fight—we guarded jealously every moment of their free time, the time in which they could do what they liked to do. We endeavored to create a public opinion that would sanction *only those* of constructive value. A profound change was registered in our opinions as to the relative value of the human unit. It may even be said that we went too far in our efforts to enlist the heart and will of *all* men and women, from all the strata of social and economic life, in the common cause, through the media of activities that in the past had been viewed by the average person as pleasant but *unessential*. We gave dignity and real intent to values that have gradually been losing ground since the Golden Age of ancient Greece. Once more—music, athletics, dramatics, play, *not* if you please in the sense of "fooling," were recognized as fundamentally educational and of character building potentialities. The limitation of a brief paper does not permit of an exhaustive examination of the real value of all these activities and of their comparative contribution to the acknowledged morale of our people during the term of our participation in the War. Suffice it to say that out of the War experience has come a definite acceptance on the part of practically all governmental, educational and social agencies, of the necessity for the wise and wholesome use by *all* people of their leisure time. Our most thoughtful leaders agreed with Maurice Maeterlinck, who states: "The use of leisure time determines, as much as War or Labor, the moral worth of a Nation."

This, then,—the Leisure Time Problem, in no wise diminished since the War period, is the problem Community Service is attempting, along with other agencies, to solve. Its purpose is to conserve the fine values of neighborliness, good-will, common concern for the welfare of the individual *through* and *by* wholesome leisure time activities,

that men and women already like or *can be educated to like*.

Recognizing the necessity and the value of the Home or Family Group, the School Group, the Church Group, the Institutional Group, the Work Group, and seeking to strengthen them, because without the sense of loyalty to the real, the tangible, there can be no real feeling of interest and responsibility in that larger, more abstract community interest, Community Service consistently seeks to emphasize and increase the opportunity to enlarge the social interests of the individual by stressing the value of activities that permit of whole souled enlistment without regard to religious, class or national prejudices.

Community Service in Cincinnati is attempting to do two definite things:

1. Create a public opinion that will recognize the fundamental necessary for wholesome leisure time pursuits by *all the people*.

2. Provide opportunities for the greatest possible use by the largest number of people of all the recreation facilities offered in our City.

In order to attain these objectives the work has been divided into five sections:

1. Community Centers
2. Community Music
3. Public Recreation
4. Institutional and private recreation
5. Educational propaganda.

1. Community Centers. From the inception of the movement in Cincinnati a close but unofficial cooperation with the Board of Education has been observed. After conference with the Director of Night Schools and Community Centers, and generally upon his recommendation, we have been given a free hand to go out into a given community to create a conscious need for a community-governed recreation organization in the school house; to set up a temporary governing committee; to plan a program adapted to the physical facilities; to submit a budget of costs for the same (all Community Centers are practically self-supporting, the Board of Education contributing only light and heat); to provide all the necessary programs that will cause the people to congregate so that the Community Center idea may be explained to them; and after a permanent self-governing organization is effected and operating, to retain on the basis of good-will a supervising control.

Our monthly reports will show the measure of success we have obtained in this, the most im-

portant feature of our work. The following varied list of activities being carried on at present, *some* in all the centers, and *all* in the strongest, will serve as an indication of the number of lives touched and, we hope, made more useful by voluntary and *paid* for participation.

1. Athletic classes for men and women
2. Swimming classes for men and women
3. Opera Clubs
4. Orchestras
5. Folk Dancing classes for children
6. Community Dances
7. Neighborhood Entertainments: Hallowe'en, Christmas programs, cantatas and the like, Sunday concerts, special holiday programs, and others.
8. Dramatic clubs
9. Choral clubs

All of these activities are not successful in every Community Center. All, however, are submitted to be tried, and as the character of the neighborhood is discovered to the governing board, elected by the paid Community Center membership (general fee 25 cents per annum), changes are made to meet the local conditions.

It may be said that this piece of work properly belongs to and should be undertaken by the Board of Education. This, *in a measure*, is true, but until the Board of Education is able to appropriate enough funds to provide for the maintenance of an adequate field staff, very little, if any, progress can be hoped for in Community Center work, without the help of a private agency. Moreover, if human experience is not vain, the need of a private non-academic agency to help maintain standards and to venture into the experimental fields viewed sometimes with apprehension and distrust by public boards, must be apparent.

2. Community Music. Of this feature of our work, or at least one of its forms, Community Singing—there has been some discussion as to the necessity or advisability of its continuance. This, I think, is largely due to misconception on the part of those who do not understand its purpose. This activity—a war-time product—has several facets, all of which must be seen before an appreciation of the whole can be obtained. It is not stretching the truth to say that Community Singing, as such, was felt in the War and Post-War period to be one of the real assets in community life. People are reached far more quickly through their emotions than by the most reasonable presentation of facts on the part of an inspired speaker. Full

advantage was taken of this when, for one reason or another our leaders desired to lift the crowd out of themselves, to generate a more kindly feeling between individuals, or to make the individuals more receptive to the message that was to follow. The by-products of good-will, fellowship, enthusiasm for a given cause, and like-mindedness were not minimized. Can we for one moment think that the need for tolerance, good-will, fellowship and true understanding is any less today than it was five years ago? One has only to look out on the world and its happenings today to know that many of the precious values we thought were partly won have been, or are being, lost. Intolerance, bigotry, suspicion, distrust and prejudice once more have raised their heads, have indeed come out into the open to find followers by the hundred thousands. Is Community Singing the panacea for all these evils? Certainly not. But it is one of the few means whereby men and women in all walks of life, of all shades of religious belief, of whatever race or nationality, can come together to do something *in common* that almost from the beginning of time they have enjoyed doing. Some of you will say that they who want this form of pleasure and inspiration can and should pay for it. When you consider the institutions of a great city— orphan asylums, old folks' homes, and the like, the hundreds of associations whose dues cover the expenses of postage and stationery, and no more—the hundreds of group meetings for altruistic purposes where no fee is charged, which without the service of a leader whose salary is provided by such a private organization as the Community Chest, would have to do without the service they are constantly calling for, you will see that this statement is not altogether true.

But—the Community Service song leader has not pointed his efforts exclusively towards Community singing. He has been taught to believe that while sometimes Community Singing is an end in itself, quite as often it is a means towards a greater end. The University Glee Club was a direct outcome of Community Singing, as was the Junior Chamber of Commerce Glee Club and the East Hi Opera Club, the Union Central Life Insurance Chorus, the Windsor Choral Club, the Westwood Opera Club, the Cyler Orchestra Club, the East Hi Orchestra, the Christmas Carolling program, the Eden Park Annual Concert and Sing, the East Hi and Hoffman Sunday Afternoon Concerts, are indirectly due to Com-

munity Singing, in that these and many other musical activities for the mass of people was due to the Community Song leader's interests and activities. While all of these clubs or organizations are not existent today, that in large part is due to the physical inability of one man either to actively direct or to supervise this work along with the general demand for his services. Moreover, and as further proof that it has its place as a means for calling people together and interesting them in the occasion, it is worth while to mention that in practically every Community Center existing today in Cincinnati, Community Singing played a prominent part in the initiatory stages.

The total cost of this service to the Chest is \$1400 per annum in salary, ten or fifteen dollars per month in automobile maintenance, and its proportion of the overhead cost of Community Service. It is difficult to measure the value of such an activity by statistics, but no more so than for any movement that has for its objective the establishment of better relationship between individuals. No group of men more than the one directing the policy of the Community Chest in Cincinnati is making a larger investment in human values—values that cannot always be measured by statistics. Such an investment is only justified by the *faith* the Executive Committee has in the soundness of its ideals.

A program of Community music in our City, financed by the Chest, calls for faith in the ideal that any activity that enlists the interest and co-operative effort of all individuals regardless of class or creed, should be safeguarded by being retained under the control of a *non-exclusive* continuing organization.

3. Public Recreation. This branch of our work may be said to include our play streets program during the summer months; our special holiday programs, Flag Day, Fourth of July, Hallowe'en, St. Valentine's Day, Armistice Day, Christmas Day; such city-wide tournaments, contests and celebrations as Boys' Week, the Junior Baseball Tournament, the Marble Tournament, the Horse-Shoe Pitching Contest, the Spelling Bee Contests, the Volley Ball Tournament, the Annual Play Day for Playgrounds and Play Streets, Zoo Day for the children, the Eden Park Concert and Sing, the May Day Folk Dancing Festival; the organization of new playgrounds (Camp Washington, Kenton Street, and Pleasant Ridge); and many other activities initiated and maintained by Community Service.

No attempt can be made here to give either statistics or a measure of the effectiveness of this work. Our Mr. Birt and Miss Merckel might be asked to present the facts in the case to the Committee.

4. Institutional and private recreation. Under this heading may be included the work carried on in our Orphan Asylums (Protestant and Catholic), the Fresh Air Farm, the Boys' and Girls' Opportunity Farms; for the delinquent boys paroled by the Juvenile Court; the groups of boys recommended to our care by the Juvenile Protective Association; the programs at Longview; the programs for the Mothers' Clubs, the Daughters of Isabella; the programs for the annual all-day outings of industrial concerns, Jewish Big Brothers, the Jewish Settlement House, and like bodies. Again no details are given, as the staff members can more intelligently give the facts and figures needed to prove the efficacy of this work.

5. Educational Propaganda. This engages the efforts of all the members of our staff and consists of public institutes, such as the annual Playground Institute conducted by the University of Cincinnati and Community Service; the Drama Institute, the Storytelling Institute; service on all recreation committees connected with social service agencies; addresses to Civic Clubs, Mothers' Clubs, patriotic associations, church groups, Community meetings, and the like; the secretaryship of the Recreational Division of the Council of Social Agencies; reports with recommendations submitted to all bodies whose influence may be made to count in a more intelligent coordinated city-wide recreational program; and cooperative effort with the Park Board, the Board of Education and the Parochial School authorities to raise the standards of physical education and play among the children under their jurisdiction.

In closing this, the first part of my letter, I think I should again set forth the philosophy of our "play" program, as it particularly affects the future citizens of our city.

Play in the life of the child is precisely what work is to the normal man or woman. It is the most important thing in his life, the thing he *must* do if he is to express the inherited instincts of the race. Running, throwing, jumping, fighting (as expressed in competitive games), nurturing, building, and joining (as expressed in the gang or group), are as natural to the child as they are in their later developments to the man. Indeed it is in the *manner of fulfillment* of these instincts that

the child is prepared to take his place later as a unit in our social life. It is in the period of youth and through the media of play that the *habits* of self-control, perseverance and team play, and the qualities of justice, loyalty and honor are acquired or disregarded. It is in the same period and largely through the same means that the child learns to adjust himself to his fellows, his place in the community and life.

What then should a service like this cost? Not having an itemized budget before me, I will merely say that in order to carry on the work as at present planned, and without any policy of expansion other than the one naturally occurring when we leave one group able to carry on, to take up the work with another, the Community Service staff should consist of an executive, most of whose work should be spent in the various fields of activities; a staff member to assume direct charge of public, private, and institutional recreation, as well as to assist in the educational program; a staff member (woman) to assist with the Community Center program and all activities involving the women and girls of the city; a staff member to assist in the Community Music, Dramatics, Pageantry, and public holiday programs; three colored staff members (two men and a woman) to carry on our negro recreation program; and adequate temporary assistance (man power and money) to continue successfully the program of play street work, May Day Festival, Eden Park Festival, and the like.

The question of salaries naturally brings up the question of the *kind* of men and women needed to successfully prosecute this work. To be a successful Community Service worker one must first of all be impelled by a dynamic spiritual force to give *all* one's time, thought and energy to the job, because *nothing less* will justify his engaging in the work at all. He or she must be able to meet with committees, groups and gatherings *intelligently* and *forcefully* to present our accepted philosophy of the value of play in education. He must, by his courage and faith in a democracy's power to express itself in a noble way through leisure time activities, be able to pass on that inspiration to groups, which in time of discouragement are prone to relinquish the ideal and effort. He must cheerfully give up practically *all* of his nights and holidays, in order to meet with groups who are free at no other time; *and* he must find time to read, study, and think in order to be able to give out again and again. Such men and women

in the commercial world are those who make their way to the top, are called leaders, and are correspondingly well paid. Social service workers, along with artists, teachers, preachers, and professional men, generally regard their salaries not as pay, *but as their living*, their real rewards being service to ideals and humanity and the respect of their fellow men. Nevertheless if they are to be free to carry on their work without worry and with continuing enthusiasm, their salaries ought in some degree to be commensurate with their ability to be of service to the Community. If social service work is to attract and hold young men and women of ability and promise, some hope must be held out for future advancement and some provision made for their economic needs and necessary social positions. In the case of Community Service, the salaries of all the principal staff workers have been cut in the last four years. I was engaged to stay in Cincinnati for \$5,000 per annum for *three-quarters* of my time, and with some degree of cheerfulness resigned a position at the Conservatory of Music paying me \$1,500 a year for the other quarter of my time, when I realized it was impossible to give less than all my time to Community Service.

Miss Merckel, who is doing precisely the same work as Mrs. Wyman (and in addition the book-keeping) receives \$2,000 a year instead of the \$2,500 paid Mrs. Wyman, and last year refused an offer of \$2,500 with Proctor & Gamble, because she counted the joy of service to her city greater than the \$500 increase.

Mr. Birt gave up a better paying commercial position in Cleveland to accept \$2,500, with Community Service. Despite the fact that his services to the Community have doubled in value in these four years, he has not had an increase, in fact, is receiving less because of his studies at the University, studies that have *increased his* value to us.

Mr. Auburn now out of the service, received \$2,000 per annum, as against the \$2,500 of Mr. Williams, whose position he filled.

As stated before, the man in charge of Community Music, a position demanding vision, force, education and personality, receives less than a well-paid routine clerk.

It may also be of interest to know that Community Service staff, including colored workers

and office force, has been cut in four years from sixteen paid workers (exclusive of Travelers' Aid) to seven paid workers (including the stenographer).

I state these facts without any spirit of criticism, and only to prove that the policy of Community Service has not been one of expansion; that we sensed from the beginning the need of retrenchment from a post-war basis. We are convinced that no one agency should prosper at the expense of any other, that the Social Service program must move forward—as a whole—and we have confidence in the ability and desire of the Chest officials who see the Social Problem in our city in its entirety, to safeguard the interests of every agency whose service program is pointed towards a permanent amelioration of that problem.

It may be, and I am not now speaking for my Board, that the time will come when in order to increase its efficiency, obtain a closer relationship with all agencies carrying on recreation work, and to secure a more authoritative voice in city-wide recreational programs and activities, Community Service should become more closely identified with the Council of Social Agencies by acting as the Executive body of the Recreational Division, *providing* that such field work as *at present* is not or cannot be carried on by any existing agency, is allowed to continue as part of the work of the Recreational Division under the direction of a paid staff. This, I think, is a change that can only be made on the basis of good-will, understanding, and the voluntary consent of the agencies involved.

Such a change, I think, requires a period of education extending over months or years, according to the intensity of the educational methods employed.

Whatever may be the just and equitable decision of the Community Service Board and the Chest officials as to the methods in which the work now being carried on by Community Service is continued, you may be assured that those of us whose immediate concern it is to see the work prosper, will with serenity and unflagging enthusiasm, work with you to see that full value in service be given for every dollar expended.

Sincerely yours,

WILL R. REEVES

Office Administration and Personal Efficiency as Seen by a Superintendent of Recreation*

JAY B. NASH

Oakland, California

While there are many principles which properly apply to the subject of office administration and personal efficiency, the two which I will mention should be sufficient.

The first is demonstrated by a certain man who had become very famous as a dog trainer. He was asked the secret of success in regard to training dogs. "Well," said he, "in the first place, you must know more than the dog."

The second principle is stated by a gang foreman on a railroad track who said, "I hold my job by doing more work than any three other men in the gang."

While these two principles might hold, I will outline seriously some of the essentials in connection with office administration and personal efficiency as follows:

The Ability to See the Various Natural Divisions of the Work

A. Business Routine

In the business department the most rigid business principles should be very carefully applied. It is this department that has to do with finances—the careful keeping of all records, receipts, expenditures, cost estimating, buying, keeping time slips, making payrolls, checking sick leaves, vacations, budget making, watching details, stopping leaks. The care with which this work is done many times makes or breaks a department. Trustworthy men under bond should be employed who enjoy detail. Seldom can an administrator handle this phase.

B. Office Conduct

While a certain amount of the office conduct is clerical, yet it differs greatly from that outlined above. Office administration demands a careful system of activity, records and filing; a systematic check of all reports due to come into the office or due to leave the office; a system of collecting all information and summarizing it in order that it may be in the most usable form to determine results of various activities.

But the most important duty in the conduct of an office is contact with the public over the telephone and contact with the public in the office with the department force. These may seem rather minor and yet probably the girl who answers the telephone has personal contact with many more people than any one else in the department, excepting no one. The prerequisite for this position is an even disposition, pleasant voice and unlimited patience.

The same qualifications plus a very pleasing personality are essential for the individual who meets the public in the office. Ninety-five per cent of the public officials meet the public with a "well, what do *YOU* want?" which is extremely repulsive to everyone.

An office must adopt the principle (even though at times it is abused) of "the customer is always right." No matter how foolish the questions of people may be, they must be taken as "all in a day's work" and met with a smile. Take a lesson in courtesy from the man who conducts a filling station.

C. Assistants, Supervisors, Special Teachers and Staff

The next big main division is that including the assistants, supervisors, special teachers and staff. It might well be termed the Operating Division, as it is the division for which all the rest exists.

The work will naturally have two divisions—one will consist of the supervisors and special teachers.

The duties of these people very definitely are: *to inspire, to encourage and to lead*, not to spy upon, to pick at and to discourage. They must be experts with the ability of leadership who have special training and special knowledge along certain subjects. This ability must be judged by the ratio in which they have made this service invaluable to the play leaders.

The staff represents the firing line and all of the people in the positions named up to this time represent the line of communication. The most

*Address given at District Recreation Congress, Stockton, California, December, 1923.

important task in administration, therefore, becomes the selection of a staff and this must be done with great care. Do not mistake *boldness* for *ability*, or *familiarity* for *personality*, or *flattery* for *diplomacy*. On the other hand, do not mistake *quietness* for *lack of initiative* or *calmness* for *lack of knowledge*. Because a girl can play baseball, run, take the hurdles, slap the boys on the back and "outboy" them, do not think she is going to last very long. This type of person "goeth forth on horseback bright and gay but cometh back on foot and begs his way." I personally have never known a girl of this type to make good over a period of years. Expect your girls to be girls and they can yet win their leadership among boys. Expect your men to be men and they can win a leadership among the girls.

Your department has for sale *SERVICE*. If people receive it, they will return as they do to a good restaurant, garage, shop or store. If parents feel that their children are better for being on your playgrounds, they will tell it. If men and women feel the benefit from recreation, they will advertise the fact.

Regardless of publicity, printed pamphlets and much noise, unless you are delivering, the work is a "flash in the pan."

Surround yourself with able men and women.

Remember that you may be able to buy eight hours of an individual's time per day, but you cannot buy service-plus, which is absolutely required to win any cause. That particular service-plus must be earned.

Give responsibility to those about you.

It is assumed today in too many places that the principal business of individuals is "to get" money, material, goods. Yet I want to propound to you a deeper principle of psychology. While superficially we all want "to get" somewhere within the depths, if properly brought out, there is a stronger impulse to want "to give."

One may be unable to get, throughout a lifetime, much of material value, yet be happy. Yet few people care to live beyond the place where they feel that they are some help to someone or to some cause. Everyone wants to feel that he has responsibility and that some little wheel in the universe must be turned by him or else it does not turn.

With those about you, be broad—never fail to see another viewpoint. Don't demand that everything should be done just your way. Encourage a frank exchange of opinion. Don't encourage the

"yes, yes chorus." Have people about you whom you can praise ninety-nine times to every one time it is necessary to censure. If you have to censure people more than that, then you would better get a new staff.

Encouragement will get the best out of people. Emerson said, "Men thought me greater than I was until I became as great as they thought me to be." We all fight to live up to expectations. Never go over the heads of assistants—go through them. Never humble or humiliate anyone in the presence of others. You will never be forgiven. "Do as you would be done unto."

Personal Efficiency.

Be Proud of Your Work—If you do not believe you have the most important job for you in the city, above the baker, banker and butcher, get out into one of their professions.

Be Enthusiastic and Radiant—If you don't leave the office in the evening looking forward to the opening of work the next day, you are in the wrong work.

Keep Forging Ahead—Someone has said, "The training for one's job begins when the job begins." Few people are ever trained with a particular position in view. They just forge ahead. Keep yourself in the environment of the best books on your subject, the best informed men and women in this profession. Attend gatherings where like-minded men and women gather. Look forward to new projects. Look forward to additional training. Appoint yourself some big task each year—tell all your friends about it and then you will not be able to back out and be a quitter. Remember that where growth stops, decay begins whether applied to physical life, mental or spiritual life.

Be Trustworthy—Be known for the ability to finish what you start. How many times each year have you gone over lists of men's names in your city? You know the comments—"This man will put it over"—"This man will promise in order to secure committees for important service and never work"—"This man's a quitter." Your name is on that list. What do they say when you are not there? Being dependable requires one to be neat in appearance—clean of purpose—willing to give time and effort lavishly—"wear out rather than rust out." But take time to practice your own doctrine of recreation; to cultivate relaxation; to practice team work, fair play and the qualities of citizenship which you hold up.

The prophets said, "Our work is here—our

(Continued on page 673)

Rules for Administration of Community Centers and Field Houses

There are many problems in the administration of community centers and field houses which are continually confronting recreation workers. The Oakland Recreation Department has recently made some decisions regarding the use of community centers and field houses which affect some of these problems. Among them are the following:

The facilities of the various Community Centers and Field Houses are to be used primarily for recreation activities of the department and closely allied community organizations.

The card playing rule of the playgrounds is amended to allow groups to play cards in the Field Houses for pleasure only by special permission of the Superintendent of Recreation.

A small charge may be made to Field House activities where the entire proceeds are used for the promotion of recreation functions or for the purpose of purchasing equipment or other items to be used in the recreation center, providing a monthly report of all receipts and expenditures be made to the Superintendent of Recreation.

All sales, bazaars, fairs or special functions which may be conducted at the centers or elsewhere by the directors or by outside organizations, *shall receive the approval of the Superintendent before* arrangements for same are completed. A monthly financial statement of all receipts and expenditures of such functions must be filed with the Superintendent of Recreation.

Organizations not affiliated with the department using the Field Houses or gymnasiums for special functions may charge a fee sufficient to cover the actual cost of operation for the time they are using the various facilities; rates and method of handling same to be established by the Recreation Department.

Directors in charge of Field Houses will be held responsible for all activities held upon the ground or in the Field Houses. Applications must be made directly to them by outside organizations for special use. The department will supply a list of approved evening directors who may be secured for supervision of special parties, dances and other functions.

A Retrospect

(Continued from page 644)

hours of leisure. That he may wisely use these, it is necessary that he should be given a truer sense of the values of human life, and this should be the mission of the great institutions which mold human thought, like the church, the school, the press, the theatre.

CALLS AGE OF PERICLES GREATEST

"The life and death of a civilization depends upon its sense of values. By common consent, the greatest civilization ever attained by man was in the Periclean age, four centuries before Christ. It was because the little people of Athens had a true sense of values. A century later, the glory of that golden age had passed, and all that interested the men of Athens was the latest triumph of the favorite athlete or the newest confection of the chief pastry cook. A few centuries later, Demosthenes reproached the people of Athens by saying: 'Unmindful of your liberties, you are always gadding about after news.'

"A century later it was recorded in the Acts of the Apostles that the reason why the once most cultured people of antiquity could not listen to a serious talk by Paul was that their sense of values had become so confused that the only thing that interested them was to hear or tell something new. Today the craving for news is such that it must not only be satisfied each day with fresh sensations, but almost each hour of the day, for the straphanger who reads his headlines on the subway going downtown awaits with greater expectancy, a few hours later, the first appearance of the afternoon editions. Nothing makes any lasting impression. He has the 'moving picture' brain, and of such stuff a true civilization cannot be made."



Athletics for Women and Girls *

By

ETHEL PERRIN

Assistant Director of Health Education Division,
American Child Health Association—on leave
of absence from the Detroit Board of
Education

Everyone in this audience at the present moment has an opinion about girls' athletics and what I would like to have is a graph of your opinions stretched out on this wall. I would place at one end of a scale the most conservative opinion, from the man or woman who feels that his or her daughter is so delicately and mysteriously put together that it is difficult to protect her from any possible chance of physical injury; that her nervous system is so easily disturbed that she should avoid all opportunities of hysterical disturbances, and that because she should always preserve her inborn sense of modesty and innocence she must never be seen by the opposite sex when she is likely to forget herself. At the other end I would place the opinion of the man or woman, probably not a parent, who feels that when a girl takes part in athletics there is no reason why she should not do the events already standardized by men, and that if she follows this path she should have no more handicaps than a boy, and should have all the stimulus and help that publicity can give her.

Each one of you stands somewhere between these two extremes, and after this discussion is over you will either be more firmly planted in the same spot in the scale, or you will have moved nearer to one extreme or the other. Would this audience, I wonder, follow the law of distribution with its majority registering somewhere midway along the line of opinion? Even if we agree that this is probably the case we should not be much better off, for when we came to lay down definite statements as to what constitutes a middle ground, no two of us would see the same limits. It was easy to agree about boys' athletics years ago, and even the over solicitous mother has to hide her fears in the face of public opinion. Suppose we consider the two extremes of this scale on the wall, and while we are considering them I wish everyone in this room would decide where on this scale he or she belongs.

At this end we have the extreme cautionist. He believes that anatomically and physiologically a girl is so constructed that she should not enter into any activity that may cause a jar to the pelvic organs especially during the period of adolescence. If this were true, why are not all girls wrecked along the way, for even if they walk through the adolescent years in a most ladylike manner they are bound to stub their toes once in a while, and what about the proverbial tom-boy girl who just naturally has to climb trees and jump and swing by her hands?

So far as I can learn, these extremely conservative people who fear for the future of our race because of possible impairment of the reproductive organs of an athletic woman, have little or no data by which to point the way, and they have to resort largely to the personal opinion of the physician. Biologically he has more evidence at hand, but even here we are making history rapidly as evidenced in our National Golf Tournament for women. A few years ago, eight women entered; this year the number was two hundred. Because girls and women in the past centuries have taken no interest in athletics is no proof that they never will.

And this wrecking of the nervous system through over-excitement! Here, of course, the factor of competition is under discussion, but it is impossible to separate athletics from competition. Some people feel that by eliminating all inter-games and making them all intra—the curse is taken away, but just as much hysteria can be manufactured from *intra* as from *inter*, and I can imagine some nervous individual getting upset if allowed only to compete against herself. I have seen a man so upset over a poor golf stroke that he broke his club across his knee, and not in a tournament, at that! Behavioristic psychology is the present-day term for this and our emergency behaviors can only be developed by every day behavior, not by sitting still and talking about how we should behave under stress of excitement.

*Address given at Recreation Congress, Springfield, Illinois, October 10, 1923.

Everyone agrees that competition is the big test of self-control, honesty, cooperation and all the other qualities listed to make a good citizen, and yet some would deprive a girl of this natural opportunity for behavioristic development.

The third objection by our extremist at this end of the line is protective from another angle, which we might call a social one. It is most difficult to steer our way clearly through this social aspect. None of us who have the responsibility of the athletic recommendations for girls wish to stand behind a policy that will make the majority of girls immodest, callous to coarse publicity or desirous of being in the limelight. One of the large contributing factors to this phase of the question is "dress." Suppose we discuss this for a moment not with any hope of solving it, but just to avoid dodging it. The extremist would say: First, cover up her figure so that it is completely disguised; second, allow no skin but face and hands to show; third, have the material dark of color; fourth, see that the doors are locked against the invasion of a stray man; fifth, have all clothing loose and properly supported from the shoulders that no constriction is possible. Have any of you seen a girl trying to do a running high jump (which has been limited to a certain height because an inch more would give her the undesirable jar)? If she ever is given a chance to enter in competition, she immediately rolls up her sleeves, discards her necktie, pulls up her bloomers and winds elastic bands around them, rolls down her socks, and is a sight—without having the real freedom she craves!

Another point in this socially protective attitude is publicity. There are two factors here; one, the desire on the part of newspapers and the public in general to feature things out of the ordinary; the other, the desire to see records broken. The first point is taking care of itself with the march of progress, and it is distinctly our duty to see that the breaking of records is *not* the goal.

Let us look at this other extreme of our scale. Our first statement was that the person standing here would say that girls should follow in the exact footsteps of men so far as standardization and classification of events go. Anatomically and physiologically we have no statistical proofs as yet, but we have one guiding point to look to—the natural desires of the girls themselves. Up to the period of adolescence every healthy girl just naturally enjoys competitive running, jumping, climbing, and throwing on an equal footing with the boys, and if this natural desire is the criterion

to be guided by, our extremist at this end has the better of the argument.

Let us continue to consider the pre-adolescent girl in relation to the other points, namely, handicaps and publicity. Little girls as a rule see to it themselves that their clothes do not handicap them in their play and we are improving by putting them into knicker suits, rather than short flying skirts or unhygienic black bloomers with their constricting or ever stretching elastic bands at waist and knee. Here we are on the dangerous topic of dress again so we will hasten on to safer ground. Publicity and exploitation stare us in the face. Why is it that little boys may go their way of self-expression through athletic delights unmolested, but the moment little girls get out on the field the camera men get busy and the reporters grow witty? This will disappear with time and education if little girls are guided by wise leaders and if these same leaders take every opportunity to interest the public in the real advantage of wholesome play. Unfortunately the feminine desire for admiration sometimes leads the leaders astray in this matter of publicity.

Now comes the complication, the older girl. Should she follow the advice of the extremist who sees no reason why she should not emulate her brother athletically as far as her ability will take her? I mean by this, the training for highly specialized meets with all that competition involves. If you hold this view you must discount, as not worthy of consideration, the physiological, periodic functions of the reproductive organs. This seems to be the one definite difference upon which to draw conclusions, and yet we have no scientific data on this point, nor are we likely to have, the risk being so great that even the experimental enthusiast may hesitate. All we can say at present is that this is a girl's handicap, and it does not seem sensible to train her to do something into which she may never be able to put her maximum effort when the opportunity comes. No one would spend any time in training a near-sighted boy to jump, no matter what his other qualifications were. You see I am discussing this end of the scale wholly from the record breaking point of view, because I can see no other reason for it.

The extremist next takes up the handicap of dress and puts the competing girl in a track suit before the public gaze without a qualm. He gives her all the publicity the papers demand and does not hesitate to use her as a drawing card if gate receipts are desired.

Everyone of you has already chosen what you consider the sane middle position between these two extremes, and yet, if we had the time to define your positions, the range would go all the way around these walls. Just by the way of starting a discussion, I will outline a year's program in girls' athletics in the Detroit public schools with its aims.

First comes the elementary school program. The aim is very simple and like that for the boys to give an equal opportunity to all for development of the whole body through the joyous use of big-muscle activities. Note the word *joyous* and all the connection with an athletic and game program. The first responsibility in any athletic program must be the consideration of the physical status of the participants. This, having been found as thoroughly as possible, must always be taken into account and used as a means for classification along with other individual differences.

I shall start this program at the age where boys and girls naturally separate in their games. This age seems to vary but is surely to be found in the Sixth Grade:

I. A Pentathlon consisting of basket ball, dash and throw, 50-yard dash, low hurdles, standing broad jump.

The fundamental activity of climbing is unfortunately omitted but mainly for practical reasons in a big city. Chinning is used for the boys but this we did not find successful for girls, and it may be a point for discussion following this paper. The running of a final inter-school Pentathlon contest is one of the most interesting and satisfying athletic events I know of, because of the intense individual interest with the absence of hysterical rivalry.

II. A stunt test in which every girl in the fifth and sixth grades only shall take part, a system of collective scoring being used.

III. A Field Day—run at same time as Boys' Field Day and on the same field with as many entries and as much time and space. The events are: 50-yard dash, low hurdles, dash and throw, basket ball distance throw, obstacle relay race. (Classification, as for boys, is by age and weight with eight separate divisions.)

IV. A Game Tournament. The events include: zig zag ball, post ball, combination pass ball and stunt speed series—open to any girl in the school.

V. Three major games are encouraged and schools record in the main office the number of

teams playing in an intra-school schedule in any or all of these games:—volley ball, field ball and hit pin base ball.

Whether or not this program carries out our aim depends upon those in charge of each school. If the good of the individual child is lost in the spirit of athletic supremacy for the school, as much harm can come out of this program as any other.

If sanely carried out, the girls will be ready to enter into the more highly organized games of the Intermediate and High Schools.

The next group is in the Intermediate or Junior High Schools. These schools are not yet two years old in Detroit. They house large numbers and are wonderfully well equipped with two complete plants of gymnasiums, swimming pools and playgrounds, so that the girls have every chance for freedom with sixty minutes a day to play in for the three years they are there.

This program is still under construction. Swimming plays a large part in it. The big group games are emphasized, especially the out-of-door ones like Field Ball and Soccer. Inter-school competition is not made much of as the opportunity for tournaments and meets is so great within each school. Basket ball is not featured.

And now, we come to the High School where everything is so much more difficult. Here we have outlined as follows our aims and justifications:

AIMS:—

1. To encourage participation in healthful athletic activities on the part of all girls in all intermediate and high schools
2. To develop desirable social and moral qualities—such as cooperation, loyalty and good sportsmanship, by promoting intra-mural and a limited number of inter-school meets and tournaments
3. To stimulate in every girl an interest in athletic activity which shall function throughout life

JUSTIFICATIONS:—

1. Beginning with the age of twelve there has been a tendency for many girls to decline in physical efficiency and lose interest in health promoting activities. The *physiological* benefit to be derived from participation in suitable supervised athletic activity is undeniable.
2. It is not the aim of this program to concentrate on the development of "star"

athletics and "championship teams". With proper leadership, however, such social occasions as competitive swimming meets and basket ball games may contribute directly toward character building and, if not over-emphasized, provide a helpful and stimulating influence throughout the school.

3. The development of ability in tennis, swimming, golf, hiking, basket ball, is especially valuable in creating an interest in such sports which may, with the present day municipal equipment, function throughout the life of every girl.

Following Miss Perrin's address Miss Elizabeth Burchenal, a member of the Committee on Athletics for Girls and Women of the American Physical Education Association, outlined the work of the Committee, its purpose and activities, and read the resolutions passed by the conference called by Mrs. Hoover at Washington under the auspices of the National Amateur Athletic Federation, and later by the Women's Committee at the meeting of the American Physical Education Association at Springfield, Illinois, in April 1923. She pointed out the significance of these resolutions, and told of the national effort which is being made to devise programs which will avoid the exploitation of girls in athletics, and of the recent publication by Spalding's of a handbook on *Athletics for Girls and Women* outlining the policies of the Committee and the resolutions passed, and containing the official rules for swimming, track and field and soccer.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. L. R. Burnett of Paterson told of the athletic meet held in Newark, N. J., under the auspices of the Amateur Athletic Union and of the method of physical examination through which a number of

girls were eliminated at the last minute. The question was raised as to whether the defects from which these girls suffered ought not to have been discovered at some time previous to the meet before the girl had been subjected to the training necessary in preparation for the meet. It was the feeling on the part of a number present that through such examinations given some time previous to the meet much difficulty might be avoided, though, as it was pointed out, certain physiological factors often necessitate last minute eliminations. The importance was urged of developing a type of athletics which will make possible participation by all girls rather than the development of star teams featuring a few girls in competitive athletics.

Dr. C. Ward Crampton, in commenting on the view of the extremist who would keep the girl out of athletics because of possible physical or nervous injury, stated that our knowledge of the subject is not so wide as it should be, but that on the basis of his own experience he felt confident a good deal of our present athletic training is not good for girls and women. Weaknesses as indicated in structural, lung and urinal diseases are sometimes emphasized as a result of over-strain. On the whole, little trouble results to the heart from athletic training and many heart murmurs disappear in activity. Dr. Crampton stated it as his belief that running and high jumping are not harmful to the girl who is carefully trained, and that gymnastics are important to health. He told of the physical examinations he had made of Neils Bukh's students which showed the girls to be in perfect physical health. The right kind of leadership in athletics is of primary importance.

Dr. Henry S. Curtis urged the importance of guarding the girl's nervous system.

PEACE THROUGH ATHLETICS

"We are glad to meet you in sport and forget politics," was the greeting of the captain of a German association football club in introducing the other members of his team to the captain of a team composed of French civilians. The French and German elevens played together at Mayence, Germany. It was reported to be the first time since 1914 that German and French athletes have met in competition.

"Sport makes brothers of us all," responded the captain of the French players, and the members of both teams warmly shook hands.

According to the newspaper report both teams played in keen rivalry, and the immense concourse of German and French spectators joined in applauding with impartiality the plays of each team. At the conclusion of the match, won by the French 5-0, the two teams cheered each other. The captain of the German team stated that he thought sport did more to bring countries together than all the conferences in the world.

The Question Box

QUESTION: Will you please give some suggestions for the observance of Easter?

ANSWER:

THE RESURRECTION, by Rosamond Kimball. The story of the Resurrection is told through words from the Bible and illustrated in pantomime and tableau. It is accompanied by selections from Bach's Passion Music and by Easter carols. Simple to produce and appropriate for use in a church. 11 men, 5 women, and reader. Samuel French, 28 West 38th Street, New York, price 35¢.

THE CHALICE AND THE CUP, by Mary S. Edgar. This is a vesper service in which the "Church" tells the story of Good Friday and Easter Day. In response to her appeal for service, the Association Spirit comes. (The spirit of the parish, guild, club, etc., may be substituted for the Association Spirit, thus making the service suitable for the use of any organization.) There are two principal characters, any number of girls and a choir. Very simple. Runs from 20 to 30 minutes. Woman's Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York, price 35¢.

YOUTH'S EASTER, by Helen L. Willcox. This is a morality play in which Youth accepts Hope and Love as his life companions, and is adaptable for junior members of the church. The minimum number of participants is 44 but the whole Sunday School may take part. Directions for costumes and staging accompany the text. Missionary Education Movement of the U. S., 160 Fifth Avenue, New York, price 25¢.

THE RESURRECTION, by Leonora S. Ashton. An Easter mystery play. 9 men, 3 women, and hidden choir. Scene: Calvary, the garden. The Morehouse Publishing Co., Milwaukee, Wis., price 5¢.

THE DAWNING, a pageant of the Resurrection by Lyman B. Bayard. A very elaborate and beautiful pageant which has had presentations in many churches throughout the country. Hugh MacCullum, Minister of the First Congregational Church of Everett, Mass., states, "It was without question the finest thing I ever saw or heard in a church. More people were turned away at the fifth production than at the others. I hope we shall repeat it next year." Pageant Publishers, 1206 S. Hill St., Los Angeles, Calif., price 50¢.

HE IS THE SON OF GOD, by Linwood Taft. 8 characters, Roman soldiers and any number of

extra people as a "mob." Simple to produce. Costume directions given. A blind Jewish mother of the time of Christ hears through her children of the deeds of the Teacher, culminating in the events of Passion Week. Her sight is restored through the miracle of faith. Pilgrim Press, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., 40¢ a copy. Also printed in the February issue of the Church School Magazine, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, price 15¢.

DARKNESS AND DAWN, by Frederico LeFevre Bellamy. A mystery play for Easter Eve. 16 young people and children. A children's chorus. It deals with the episodes of the Crucifixion, the Entombment and the Resurrection as they come to the knowledge of these young people outside the city wall. May be given in the chancel, pulpit platform or assembly hall. Episcopal Book Shop, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York, price 50¢. Royalty \$2.00.

SPRING IN THE BROWN MEADOW, by Elizabeth Edland. A pantomime for very small children. A little girl feels very lonely because the flowers are not to be seen in the Brown Meadow and is taught the meaning of Easter through Spring Awakening. The Squirrel, Snowbird, Raindrops, Sunbeams, Flowers and Spring are the characters. March issue of the Church School Magazine, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, 15¢ a copy.

THE QUESTIONER, by Lyman Bayard. A morality play for adults. About 26 characters. Wisdom teaches the Questioner the meaning of the Resurrection through Nature, Reason, History, Sorrow, Experience, Religion, Faith and Death. Finally Joy comes and abides with the Questioner until he too is called. Costume suggestions given. Very well illustrated. Copy with music may be obtained from the Pageant Publishers, 1206 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, Calif., price 50¢. Pamphlet without music is included in the March issue of the Church School Magazine, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, price 15¢ a copy.

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, by May Pashley Harris. 14 characters, 3 scenes, 2 settings. Time: three quarters of an hour. A fragment of an old sixteenth century Protestant miracle play adapted by Mrs. Harris for present day use. She has succeeded in keeping the quaintness of the old dialogue and yet making it intelligible to modern ears. The play is a

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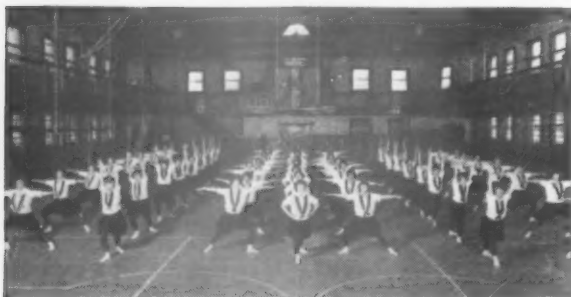
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HER EASTER CHOICE from *Life Victorious*, by Margaret Slattery. A dialogue for ten girls. Louise, a girl of fifteen, chooses the path she is to travel through life. Characters of Pleasure, Beauty, Faith, etc., are introduced. Pilgrim Press, Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., price per copy 6¢; 12 copies for 65¢.

THE IMMORTALITY OF LOVE AND SERVICE, a service with pageant features by H. Augustine Smith. The first three scenes,—Behold the King, The Darkest Hour, and The Messiah Victorious, may be used as an Easter service with little preparation. Three other scenes may be added which make it more elaborate. Easter music used. Pilgrim Press, Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., price 6¢ a copy; 12 for 65¢.

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THE TRAVELING MAN, by Lady Augusta Gregory. 1 male, 1 female, 1 child. 1 act, interior. An Irish story of a poor woman who spreads her table and prepares her home for the coming of the King. He comes in the guise of a traveling man and is turned away unrecognized. John W. Luce & Co., Boston, Mass., price \$1.25.

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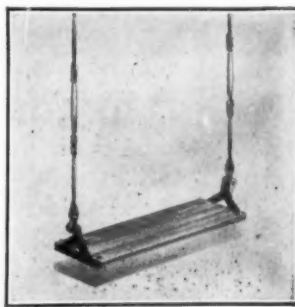


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EASTER CELEBRATIONS is a publication of Edgar S. Werner, 11 East 14th Street, New York City, price 60¢. This book contains poems, dialogues, pantomimes, together with suggestions for Easter entertainments and parties.

EASTER DAY, by Robert Haven Schauffler, published by Moffat, Yard & Co., 31 Union Square, W., New York, price \$2.50. A splendid collection of verse and prose relative to the Easter season.

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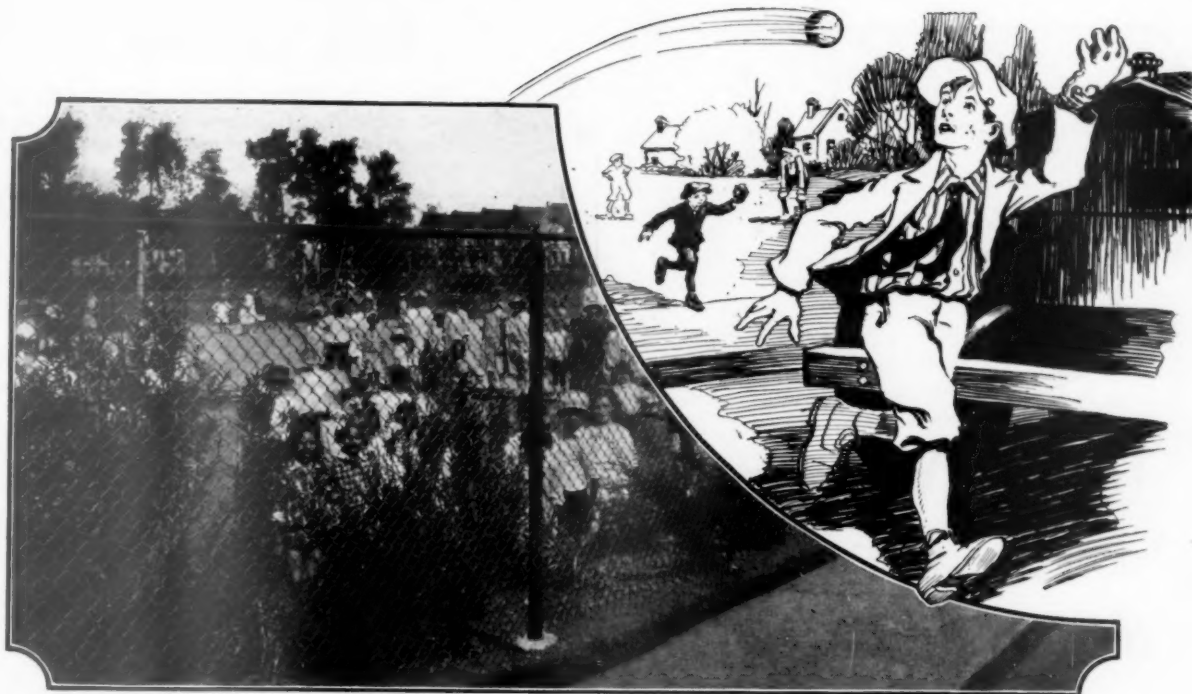
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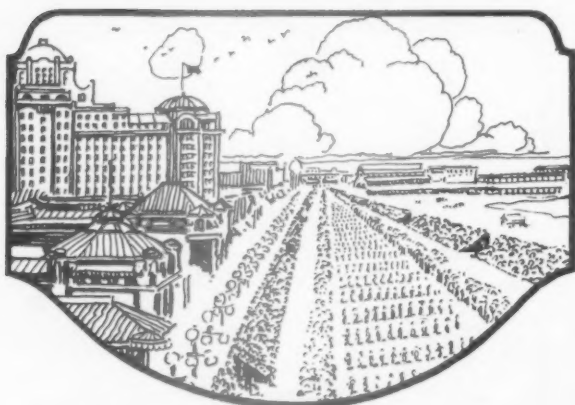
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Book Reviews

SIX BIBLE PLAYS. By Mabel Hobbs and Helen Miles. Bureau of Educational Dramatics, Playground and Recreation Association of America. Published by Century Company. Price, \$2.00.

Churches, Sunday Schools and civic organizations are turning more and more to Biblical drama as a means of fostering the spiritual life of the community. A significant contribution has, therefore, been made in these six plays of dignity and simplicity, in which as far as possible the exact words of the Bible have been used. Once more in these plays the Bible has proven the greatest of all treasure houses of dramatic situations.

The plays are *Ruth and Naomi*; *Joseph and His Brethren*; *Moses*; *Esther*; *The Healing of Naaman*; *David and Jonathan*. Each drama is simply constructed with a rigid, almost classical economy in lines and scenes. Each presents its message with the directness of an arrow moving to its mark. All of them will make a strong appeal to children who may have little background in Biblical knowledge, as well as to grown-ups to whom the stories are familiar. It will be found surprising to what extent tender incidents gain in sharpness and vividness when actually clothed in flesh and blood.

In the plays there are no long arduous roles, no settings which amateurs could not achieve. The dramatizations are so simple, so workmanlike that they may be said to play themselves. In creating them the laboratory method was applied. At every step the dramatic value was tested, phrases were removed or inserted wherever changes proved necessary for direction and natural action. During construction each play was rehearsed under expert direction until it was pronounced absolutely safe for successful direction by inexperienced directors.

No effort to produce a spectacle has been made and simple settings and properties are urged. The plays may be presented either indoors or out. The usual church architecture is sufficient background for indoor production. Suggestions for producing and for authentic costuming are given in the introduction.

Number of photographs showing the characters in action add to the charm of the book. There are also a number of traditional Hebrew melodies used in three of the plays.

HEALTH IN PLAY, by the American Child Health Association, New York City. Price, \$25.

In an attractively written and illustrated pamphlet, which has just appeared under the title *Health in Play*, the American Child Health Association tells of some of the activities along health lines which are being conducted on playgrounds and which are really play for children. Of special interest is the account of the experiment on the Fargo, North Dakota, playgrounds.

The Association, in suggesting activities to be conducted, recognizes the fact that lack of leaders, facilities and funds, combined with pressure of work, may make it impossible for certain features of the program suggested to be incorporated. But it suggests that a start be made and that play leaders apply to their playgrounds the "measuring stick" of the so-called "ideal" playground program outlined.

A practical and suggestive section of the pamphlet discloses a number of health games and devices which will aid in arousing interest in health subjects.

Copies of *Health in Play* may be secured at 25c each from the American Child Health Association, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City.

OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS, by Stanley Pinel. Bulletin 61, Ohio State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts.

Here is a practical publication which superintendents of recreation, park executives and others concerned with technical problems of swimming pools and bath-houses will find exceedingly helpful. Question of construction

(Continued on page 671)



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Recreation in the Oregon Hop Fields

(Continued from page 646)

buildings used for tent storage except during the picking season. A good orchestra was secured on a percentage basis, and dances were scheduled at each camp on alternate nights. The camp fire programs proved so popular, however, that after a few nights the hall at camp 3 was released for other recreation activities, and dances were held five nights a week at camp 1 with an attendance of about fifty couples. One of the surprises of the whole experiment was the way in which people flocked to the camp fires in preference to the dances. The small profit from the dance hall was used to furnish a half-pint of milk twice a day to each playground child. Occasionally an old fashioned dance was held which drew larger crowds than the regular dances.

SOME OF THE RESULTS

The post office and medical service proved an excellent approach to the pickers, and after their confidence was won they did everything possible to cooperate. The camp paper, which was distributed free, was invaluable. It contained company bulletins, announcements of recreation activities, camp news and some outside news. Most of the outside news came in from the radio set owned by the ranch manager. The work aroused great interest in the state. Many visitors came to the ranch, including growers, social workers, and state and federal officials. Portland newspapers carried feature stories, and one paper sent a special writer to the camp for a week.

The first good results from the recreation program came from the mere announcement of the work planned. Applications poured in, and a full crew of high grade pickers was available from the very beginning of the season. Moral conditions were much improved. Fighting and drunkenness were almost entirely eliminated. The labor turnover was low and the quality of the work done was high. There was no labor trouble although some of the other ranches had difficulty along this line. At the Eola Ranch the picking was completed five days ahead of schedule.

The entire recreation program cost less than one thousand dollars, as against forty-five thousand dollars paid to pickers for wages. On a percentage basis, the program cost a little over two



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per cent of the wages paid, and only one-half of one per cent of the value of the crop. Company officials are so delighted with the results that the work is to be continued and expanded next year. Several other ranches are to begin the work next season. Mr. Henderson has had numerous inquiries about the work, and has been called upon to make a number of addresses before interested groups. He was assisted in the work by Mrs. Henderson, and by Miss Emma Heilman, head of the Department of Physical Education for Women at Reed College, Portland. Other workers on the staff were a nurse, two play leaders, and an editor for the camp paper.

Book Reviews

(Continued from page 668)

of pools and bath-houses, drainage, water supply, purification systems and similar matters are discussed in detail. Photographs, plans and drawing make the pamphlet doubly valuable.

THE BOOK OF ENTERTAINMENTS AND THEATRICALS, by Helena Smith Dayton and Louise Bascom Barratt. Published by Robert M. McBride & Company, New York. Price, \$3.50.

To the distracted seeker after ideas for entertainments and information on the details of putting them on, this book will come as a veritable "life saver." The information given is so practical in detail that the volunteer

committee with little experience but with plenty of courage may dare to plunge without fear of drowning! And the entertaining way in which the material is presented is by no means the least attractive feature of the book. The illustrations, which are reproductions of settings, programs, posters and costumes used in a number of successful shows, add a wealth of suggestion to the information contained in the text.

Here are some of the subjects discussed: Concerning the Entertainment Committee; The Importance of Ideas; Making Preliminary Arrangements; Planning the Printed Publicity; The Ticket Problem; Decorations; Costume Parties; Costumes; Dramatic Productions; Revues and Vaudeville; Scenery; Lighting; Properties and Stage Dressing; Stage Costumes; Make-Up; Mechanical Effects; Duties of a Director or Coach; Stage Management; Duties of the Committee; How to Build a Stage; Pageants; Dinners; Charity Bazaars; Society Circuses; Exhibitions; College Reunions; Raising Money; and Concluding Suggestions.

SERVICES FOR THE OPEN, by Laura I. Mattoon and Helen D. Bragdon. The Century Company, New York. Price, \$1.00.

This book is designed primarily for camps, for use in schools during the outdoor seasons or for any group who wish to worship out-of-doors. It represents a compilation of passages not only from the Bible but from seers and poets down to the present time, of tested hymns and of the prayers of great people. *Services for the Open* should find a place in every camp library.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES. H. N. Morse and Edmond deS. Brunner. Published by George H. Doran Company, New York. Price \$2.50

The survey described in this book, which was based on a study made in 179 counties, 25 of which were intensively

(Continued on page 672)

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Carrying the Gospel of Play to the Rural Community

(Continued from page 649)

demonstration agents has been an annual celebration at Tuskegee. In this day the girls as well as adults have taken a part and this is the first Girls' Day that has been held. A committee composed of Miss D. Vivian Gilmore, the Jeanes Fund Supervisor for Macon County; Mrs. Booker T. Washington, the widow of the Founder of the Institute and the Director of the Girls' Industries at the Institute; Mrs. R. R. Moton, wife of the Principal; Mrs. L. T. Jones, Principal of the Children's House of the Institute and the Dean of Women of the Institute fostered the enterprise. The primary purpose of the Day was to make more attractive the commonly drab existence of the rural sections—to teach the why, the how and the what of play. The ultimate objects for the day are:

- "(1) To improve the home life of the rural girl
- (2) To develop women leaders in the rural community
- (3) To cultivate in the country girl the spirit

of economic independence, thrift and industry

- (4) To inspire the rural girl by having her brought into direct contact with other girls whose opportunities have been greater."

How do this better than through the influence of genuine, wholesome recreation? Than by providing for the empty hours, the idle moments of physical relaxation, the moments of danger or promise that are in the day of every girl?

Did the girls respond to the exercises of the day? They did. They entered into the program wholeheartedly; the delegated leaders overcame their oft-present timidity and talked freely, and others of the girls even gave spontaneous appreciations of what they were being shown and "what we can now do back home." The pupils of the Institute Children's House illustrated the playing of many elementary games and the girls of the Senior Class gave calisthenic demonstrations, indoors and out, and illustrated as well the making of and the use of playground apparatus. Songs and yells were given by each school represented by its Girls' Club. Among these schools were: Harris Barrett, New Rising Star, Notasulga, Cheshaw, Solomon's Chapel, Russell Plantation, Cross Keys, Swanson, Hickory Grove, Sweet Gum, and Dawkins. They typified en masse the rural one, two and three teacher-schools principally. At noon the Institute Band marched the visitors around the campus to the students' dining hall, Tompkins Hall. Afterward a group photograph of the girls with their banners was taken at the base of the Booker T. Washington Monument.

The day was a decided success and this annual occasion gives great promise for the future better health, better happiness and better worth of the young lives of all rural Alabama.

Book Reviews

(Continued from page 671)

studied, represents a summary of the situation faced by the 100,000 churches in Rural America. It reveals, according to the authors, the fact "that two-fifth of all rural churches are standing still or losing ground; that the greatest untouched field of Christian effort in Rural America is the work for boys and girls; that the average church provides a program which ignores the yearnings and ardors of Youth." These are a few of the discouraging facts revealed by the study and its analysis. There is encouragement for the rural church, however, in the examples quoted showing that where there are successful young people's societies in operation caring for the social and recreational as well as the religious life of the young people, the Church, as a whole, is exerting a very great influence on community life.

Does the Small Town Need a Playground?

(Continued from page 648)

things for their own use these same children may children feel that it was their own, to be used only on the grounds. However likely to appropriate have been, they felt the responsibility placed upon them. A month, and then the season elapsed without a single article lost or stolen. When the second season opened with many more things, kept as before in an open chest, we decided that the children should be trusted. Occasionally a ball would be missing at night but the first boy or girl on the field in the morning would always put it in the chest when he found it. Not once did they start playing with a lost ball before we arrived. And again nothing was lost or stolen during the season. Side by side with this record is the report that in the two years not a single accident occurred requiring the services of a doctor.

The experience in our particular community led us to draw some general conclusions about small community work which, while they may not apply in all instances, may serve as guide posts to others. A few of them follow:

It is not wise to attempt the same methods on a country playground as have succeeded in the city. The purpose is the same and the need is as acute as in crowded city streets, but results cannot be accomplished in the same manner.

New games and apparatus can be used without limit, but not more than one of each kind should in most cases be provided.

It is well, if possible, to have in charge both a man and his wife who should not be residents of the town.

The intimate acquaintance among the children makes it unwise to attempt a regular program or to try a great amount of organized work. We found them intensely active every minute if material was at hand and someone present to lead them.

To try pageants, folk dancing and other events which are possible on the city playground, only serves to drive the boys and girls away.

Office Administration and Efficiency

(Continued from page 656)

reward is ahead of us," but today we say, "Our reward is here—our work is ahead of us." If you carry this idea of personal efficiency yourself, you will be able to expect every employee in your department large or small to "play the game."

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